

# CAROLINA WORKING GROUP ASSOCIATION



## 2020 Summer Newsletter Edition

### 2020 CWGA Board of Directors and Officers

President:	Cathy Rubens	cathy.rubens@gmail.com
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	Francine Brown	fabrown@nc.rr.com
	Bob Busby	didiok9@aol.com
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### Dates To Remember

### Info From Your Newsletter Editor

Covid 19 has taken us all on a wild ride since March! With closings, social distancing, etc our "normal" has changed...stay safe, everyone!

**NOVEMBER 15th - FALL CWGA Newsletter Deadline**

### Volunteers Needed

- NC Federation of Dog Clubs Representative
  - Chair club events
  - Ways and Means
- Program Inventor for General Meetings

*keep up to date on events and happenings by checking our website*

**[www.carolinaworkinggroup.org](http://www.carolinaworkinggroup.org)**

# President's Report

Let's not expound on what a crazy year this is, we're getting it from every direction already.

I'm glad that we do not have to have elections this year as it would be nearly impossible without changing our constitution and bylaws. We could have a telecom meeting if you all desire; and I looked into doing a zoom meeting, but they are limited to 40 minutes unless you own an account. If any one of our members has an account and wants to set up a zoom meeting I would be glad to participate!

## **AKC Good Sportsmanship Award**

The board wanted to bestow this in a celebration in BIS Ring, but Covid disaster struck. So now: It is my privilege and honor to bestow our

**1st  
Carolina Working Group Association's  
AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award  
to  
Laura Rader**

Laura has supported our club by being trophy chair assistant trophy chair and show chair for multiple years and coordinating and putting on our first ever Canine Education Day. The Canine Education Day was a collaboration with other clubs and showcased multiple veterinarians and specialists to address current concerns for our dogs. Not to mention the time she's volunteered to help me get things accomplished, our club would not be the same without her! Please thank her for all she has done and her willingness to help others to succeed!

Our shows are on schedule for 2021, as we all mourn the fact that we were not able to move forward in 2020. But we did save our exhibitors from paying an entry fee by making the decision prior to mailing premium. Hopefully this will benefit us in the future, as it was not OUR bank accounts that we thought about.

So as summer cooks our vegetables in the garden, I wish you an opportunity to enjoy your family, two and four-legged.

Cathy Rubens  
919-949-4122  
8977 Fab Whitley Rd., Kenly, NC 27542

***CONGRATULATIONS, LAURA!***



## 2019 STAR Awards

<b>Memory &amp; Jimmy ARMSTRONG</b> (Great Dane)	<b>MORSE POA 2019</b>	Krisda Kennedy's Endeavor, POA
<b>Linda FOWLER</b> (Portuguese Water Dog)	<b>ICY CGCA, TKI 2019</b>	CH. Aquatass Play It Again Starstruck, CGCA, TKI
<b>Laura RADER</b> (Newfoundland)	<b>STETSON CH 2019</b>	CH. Avalon's Bey's American Royal
<b>Steve &amp; Becky Beauchamp Laura RADER</b> (Newfoundland)	<b>CARRIE CH 2019</b>	CH. Seabrook's Carolina Girl at Avalon Bey
<b>Ricki SILVERI</b> (Siberian Husky)	<b>PIPA RA 2019</b>	GCHB Trillium Blue's Sweetgrass Purple Reign, CGC, RN, RA
<b>Ricki SILVERI</b> (Siberian Husky)	<b>SHADOW CH 2019</b>	CH. Trillium Blue's Sweetgrass The Shadow Returns
<b>Ricki SILVERI</b> (Siberian Husky)	<b>ROYAL CH, BN, RN 2019</b>	CH. Trillium Blue's Sweetgrass Solitary Reign, BN, RN

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**From:** "Gail LaBerge" <outland@laberge.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** "delegates-akc" <delegates-akc@googlegroups.com>  
**Subject:** [delegates-akc] article by Sheila Goffe

Below is an article written by Sheila Goffe on preserving K-9 Units for Public Safety Tool.

Gail LaBerge  
Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.  
AKC PAC, Chair

### K-9 Units Are Public Safety Tool That Must Be Preserved

Posted to Politics August 12, 2020 by Sheila Goffe and Don Slavik

As cities debate police funding in the wake of coast-to-coast protests, municipalities should take great care to protect the one public safety tool that no community can do without – highly trained police K-9 units.

Put aside the myths and inaccuracies – there is little doubt highly trained police dogs are keeping American communities safe from terrorism, crime and are doing their part to protect precious freedoms. End or underfund the K-9 police units, and every community will be less safe and less secure.

A few examples to underscore their irreplaceable role.

Bomb-sniffing dogs patrol sporting events, parades, marathons and festivals on the lookout for the threat of foreign and domestic terrorism. Highly trained police dogs work tirelessly to find the missing and the dead, bringing relief or closure to families.

Police dogs encounter the most dangerous of circumstances to stop crimes in progress and find the drugs and weapons that would otherwise enter the community. They reduce the time needed to search buildings and to find people in distress.

It should be brightly underlined that amid many recent peaceful protests, police dogs are protecting Americans who are exercising their right to march and assemble.

Unlike fictional portrayals in film and TV, modern police dogs are used primarily as search tools and only rarely for physical apprehension, and even then, only for violent suspects.

Officer Troy Caisey, head dog handler for the Boston Police Department and one of the nation's foremost experts on police dogs, says that police dogs are almost always leashed in Massachusetts. When a dog locates a suspect, the dog is on a leash and can be recalled, allowing officers to give additional warnings to a suspect to surrender.

Contrary to claims that police dogs destabilize an encounter between suspect and police, it is exactly the opposite. Police dogs are powerful de-escalation tools because, as Caisey says, "Individuals will fight with 10 police officers, but they will not fight with a dog."

In most encounters between police and a suspect, the mere announcement by officers that a dog is present will cause suspects to decide against resisting or fleeing, thereby saving lives.

Police dogs offer another crucial advantage during dangerous searches — they provide greater reaction time for an officer. Because dogs search ahead of officers and alert when they find a suspect, less opportunity exists for an officer to be startled into an instantaneous decision, such as whether to use their weapon.

And because police dogs will only obey their handlers, they can never be commandeered to escalate a situation, unlike a gun or taser grabbed from a police officer.

The enduring myths that “biters” make good police dogs are just that — myths. A non-aggressive, well-socialized dog is essential for police work because they spend so much time patrolling busy, sometimes volatile, crowds.

K-9s are selected from high-quality dogs specifically bred for their even temperament. Handlers choose breeds that are driven to use their noses, not their teeth. In the rare event that a dog is required to physically apprehend a person, they have been trained to use only back molar pressure, not a puncturing bite.

K-9s in most all jurisdictions undergo rigorous and continuous training to national standards. To serve in Massachusetts K-9 units, for example, dogs must complete a 14-week training program and then pass several days of testing by outside evaluators.

The dogs then spend six to eight months on city patrol before being allowed to train in narcotics or explosives detection. After certification, every dog must have 16 hours per month of ongoing training — and many dogs are additionally certified by national police dog associations and, if bomb-sniffers, by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

These extraordinarily well-trained animals are positive, non-lethal law enforcement tools.

As America rethinks policing, K-9 training and deployment programs should remain non-negotiable.



#### About the Author

Sheila Goffe and Don Slavik

Sheila Goffe is vice president of government relations for the American Kennel Club. Don Slavik is executive director of the U.S. Police Canine Association.

They wrote this for [InsideSources.com](http://www.insidesources.com).

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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/delegates-akc/95073477-A2CB-48C5-B083-7515660217EF%40lberge.org>.

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**From:** "Dick Blair" <rollickinoes95@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 05, 2020 12:00 PM  
**To:** "delegates-akc" <delegates-akc@googlegroups.com>  
**Subject:** [delegates-akc] Yet another Video!

Hello folks!

Attached for your enjoyment and edification is the latest canine (and feline and even an ungulate) video, courtesy of Nina Schaefer and Monica Stoner. Who doesn't enjoy a good message????

Dick Blair  
HVKC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uQBe9GzSSE&authuser=2>

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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/delegates-akc/CAPcAios2Kn4UM0S6NBLt1Vnw5W8wY%3DwdsrS8mk5kGetDJOMS%2Bw%40mail.gmail.com>.

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**From:** "Linda Wozniak via" <dkcwebsite@durhamkennelclub.com>  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 10:07 AM  
**To:** <undisclosed@durhamkennelclub.com>  
**Subject:** [DKC] Health Testing.

ATTENTION RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS - The date for next CANINE HEALTH CLINIC will be Saturday, October 3rd. Available testing will be OFA Echocardiogram - OFA Eye exams, and possible BAER (hearing testing) if there is enough interest. Email me with your needs [ableaimkennels@aol.com](mailto:ableaimkennels@aol.com)

From DKC Member: Linda Wozniak Oswicks @att.net

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**From:** "American Kennel Club" <info@akc.org>  
**Date:** Friday, August 07, 2020 10:00 AM  
**To:** "Cathleen A. Rubens" <cathy.rubens@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** AKC Account Update: 2-Factor Authentication



AKC cares about keeping your online identity safe. And because we do, we are enhancing security on our sites.

**In the coming week, AKC will launch email 2-factor authentication (2FA)**, a security measure that will add additional safety to your myAKC or AKC Marketplace account. Two-factor authentication is used as a supplement to a digital password that, when used properly, makes it more difficult for a phisher to access a compromised account.

### **What You Need to Do**

Once 2FA is implemented, next time you log in to your myAKC account, you will be prompted to verify your email address. Once your email is verified, you will see a pop-up notification that a code has been sent to the email on file. Finally, you will copy and paste that code into the box provided on the log-in page and you are all set!

### **Keep Security in Mind**

While two-step authentication aids in the enhanced security of your account, you still need to be careful. To ensure the security of your account you should:

- Change your password regularly
- Pay attention to any suspicious emails asking you to click links
- Do not use the same password for different accounts
- Keep your passwords in a safe place
- Clear the cache on your computer

### **Beware of these Red Flags:**

- AKC will never ask for your password; demand payment; threaten to cancel your account; or require payment by wire transfer or cash.

- AKC will never text you a message regarding resetting your account.
- If you receive a suspicious message, do not reply or follow links, and do not enter your username or password.

You can read more about phishing and ways to prevent it [here](#).

### **Contact Us**

If you are having issues with email verification or 2-factor authentication please contact Customer Service at 919.233.9767 or email us at [info@akc.org](mailto:info@akc.org).

We are always here to help you with any additional questions you may have.



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**From:** "American Kennel Club" <education@akc.org>  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** "Cathleen A. Rubens" <cathy.rubens@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** AKC Announces New "AKC Canine and Me" Program

[View Online](#)

 Image

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Dear Cathleen,

AKC's Public Education Department has come up with yet another exciting way to involve young people in activities with their dogs. [AKC Canine and Me](#) is a program that introduces teenagers (13 years and older) to the world of [AKC Sports & Events](#).

Participants will be provided with an introduction to certain sports and events and will be encouraged to try the beginning elements of each activity. To achieve program milestones and receive prizes, participants will need to record themselves and their dog completing the various skills and submit their videos through [Cinebody](#).

AKC Canine and Me is a great way for teenagers and young adults who are dog owners to stay busy and active, while strengthening the bond with their canine. This program promotes health, responsibility and fun while introducing the wonderful world of AKC Sports & Events. We hope that you will share the fun of AKC Canine and Me with your club members.

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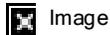
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**From:** "Dennis Sprung" <dennis.sprung@akc.org>  
**Date:** Friday, August 07, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** "Cathleen A. Rubens" <cathy.rubens@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** AKC Assistance

August 07, 2020 | [View Online](#)



Dear AKC Judge,

As we are now entering the fifth month of Covid-19, recently we have seen successful clusters with more on the horizon, providing promise for the future. Please keep in mind that AKC staff is always available to serve you. Our responsibilities to judges, breeders, exhibitors and clubs remain our top priority. Whether you need help with upcoming assignments, assistance for your club, or if you wish to share suggestions, we are here for you. We welcome you to reach out to us at any time.

As of today, 1,160 All Breed/Group shows and 1,842 specialties have been canceled. In light of these circumstances, we are focusing efforts on assisting Show Chairs and clubs with future dates. It is challenging but vital work.

In daily communications with our core constituents, we hear our fancy's passion for our sports, enthusiasm for the return of events and optimism that better days lie ahead.

Please call on all of us whenever we may be helpful.

***In spite of the uncertainty today, rest assured that the time will come for us to enjoy our events as a community again.***

Dennis B. Sprung  
President / CEO  
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Executive Vice President, Sports & Events  
[dvl@akc.org](mailto:dvl@akc.org)

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Vice President, Dog Show Judges  
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Patricia Proctor  
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Alan Slay  
Director, Event Programs  
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Glenn Lycan  
Director, Club Operations  
[gel@akc.org](mailto:gel@akc.org)

Guy Fisher  
Manager, Club Development  
[ghf@akc.org](mailto:ghf@akc.org)



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Add [dennis.sprung@akc.org](mailto:dennis.sprung@akc.org) to your address book to ensure it reaches your inbox.

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**From:** "Dennis Sprung" <communications@akc.org>  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 9:01 AM  
**To:** "Cathleen A. Rubens" <cathy.rubens@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** AKC Noteworthy News

July 27, 2020 | [View Online](#)

The AKC staff remains hard at work on virtual events as physical ones slowly return.

We are excited to announce the 2nd AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge. Entries will open August 3rd and close August 10th at 12pm EDT. As in the first competition, this conformation competition is open to every AKC recognized breed including Miscellaneous. This time around, each adult and puppy group winner including Miscellaneous will receive \$100, and Best in Show and Best Puppy will receive \$200 each.

Entrants can go to AKC.org under the Sports and Events tab to enter and get instructions on how to upload their video. Dogs can be entered in one of two classes, Puppy (at least 6 months and under 12 months) or Open Class (any entry including CH of record) in the appropriate breed and sex. Entries are limited to 100 dogs per breed and is on a first come, first serve basis. Video submissions for each class will be judged individually and placed 1st -4th. Submissions will be judged by dog people with expertise in their respective breeds.

The entry fee to participate is \$25 and a portion of every entry will be donated to AKC Reunite's Adopt A K-9 Cop program, which works with AKC Clubs to donate K-9 dogs to police departments around the United States. This donation will be matched by AKC Reunite. Last month's event generated a \$7,000 donation to Take The Lead.

Breed judging will take place Friday, August 14th beginning at 12pm ET through Monday, August 17th at 6pm ET, with breed winners announced on Wednesday, August 19th. Group judging will begin on Wednesday, August 19th at 12pm ET and conclude on Friday, August 21st at 12pm ET. Group

winners will be announced on Monday, August 24th. Best in Show judging will begin on Monday, August 24th and conclude at 12pm ET on Tuesday, August 25th. Best in Show will be announced on Wednesday, August 26th. More details and video entry criteria can be found on [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

The AKC staff is dedicated to creating new tools that assist our constituency and enhance user experience on akc.org. One of their focuses has been creating tools for breeders. We are very happy to share with you that we have recently launched the free AKC Breeder Tool Kit (which replaces our older Online Record Keeping System (ORKS)). It is available now on [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org). The easy to use tool features:

- Quick link to register a litter with prepopulated information
- Access your favorite breeder tools in one easy-to-use location
- Maintain you dog and litter records through updated screens
- Meet your AKC record keeping requirements and more
- View official AKC litter and puppy registration data
- AKC Marketplace, Online Reports and the Reunite Hub quick links
- Download or email AKC Pet Insurance benefit forms for your puppy buyers
- Create, maintain and print your Kennel Emergency Plan

We sincerely hope you find this tool useful.

As always, we remain available to you. Staff will assist you during our regular business hours, Monday-Friday 8:15a-4:30p ET and customer service is available until 8p ET. Please feel free to reach out to us. We are happy to help you in any way we can.

Stay safe and be well!

 Image

Dennis Sprung  
President & CEO



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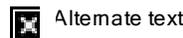
**From:** "AKC PAC" <akcpac@akc.org>  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** "Cathleen A. Rubens" <cathy.rubens@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** AKC PAC Masks Are Here—Help AKC PAC Protect You And Your Dogs

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## AKC PAC Masks Are Here!

Follow Poppy the Bichon Frise's example to lead a safe lifestyle! Show your friends and family that you care about their health and wellbeing, while also protecting purebred dogs and dog sports.



Alternate text

*Disclaimer: Dogs do not need to wear masks, but they sure do make cute models!*

[AKC Political Action Committee \(AKC PAC\) face masks](#) help protect you and your rights as a dog owner. Masks are available for a \$12 donation to the AKC PAC.

100% of your contribution to the AKC PAC goes directly to electing dog-friendly legislative candidates.

PLUS! Send us a picture of yourself wearing the mask with your dog. We'll feature it on social media and other media platforms.

**Minimum donation: \$12.00**

[Click here to make your donation.](#) Scroll to the bottom of the page. Select your club affiliation and check the box to proceed. Enter in your contact and other information. In the AKC-affiliated club box, please type "face mask donation".

 [AKC PAC Face Masks](#)

Donate to AKC PAC

*The AKC PAC is a single-issue, non-partisan organization dedicated to supporting the election of legislators who will protect the rights of responsible dog owners. [Learn more about the AKC PAC.](#)*

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This is a message from the AKC Political Action Committee. You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

American Kennel Club Political Action Committee, 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC

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919-816-3720 | [www.akc.org/pac](http://www.akc.org/pac)

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**From:** "AKC Government Relations" <doglaw@akc.org>  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 11:29 AM  
**To:** <cathy.rubens@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** New APHIS Website for Animal Welfare Act Licensing Rule Changes Launched



Monday, July 27, 2020

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/new-aphis-website-animal-welfare-act-licensing-rule-changes-launched/>

*Please share this with all interested stakeholders.*

Today, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) announced the launch of a [new website](#) to assist licensees and stakeholders understand and implement [recent changes to the federal Animal Welfare Act \(AWA\) Animal Care regulations](#).

The new website includes information about the changes to the licensing process, watering standards, and veterinary care for dogs, as well as tech notes and videos to assist users in navigating the website.

[Click here for AKC Government Relations' \(AKC GR\) Overview of the New Animal Care Rules.](#)

[Click here to read the updated regulations in their entirety.](#)

Those with questions are encouraged to contact USDA APHIS at 970-494-7478 or [AnimalCare@usda.gov](mailto:AnimalCare@usda.gov).

[AKC GR's Regulatory Resources Center](#) also provides updates on AKC's activities in addressing dog-related regulatory proposals from the U.S. federal government, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia. For more information, contact AKC GR at [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

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**From:** "AKC Government Relations" <doglaw@akc.org>  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** <cathy.rubens@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** North Carolina: Carteret County Seeking Input on Animal Control Laws by August 31



August 14, 2020

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/north-carolina-carteret-county-seeking-input-animal-control-laws-august-31/>

*Please forward to dog owners in Carteret County:*

Carteret County Animal Control is considering updating their animal control laws and wants feedback from county residents.

From now until August 31, residents have the opportunity to take a [brief online survey](#) to provide input. The current ordinance and any amendments will only apply to unincorporated areas of the county. Cities and towns in Carteret County have their own separate animal control laws.

This is an excellent opportunity for dog owners and breeders in the county to have a voice before an ordinance is drafted. AKC encourages Carteret County residents to visit the county health department's website and take the [online survey](#) before the August 31 deadline.

AKC Government Relations will continue to monitor and provide updates when available. For more information, contact AKC GR at [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

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## AKC ALL-BREED CLUBS COMMITTEE

March 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM by Nancy Fisk, chairperson, at the Doubletree Airport Hotel, Newark, New Jersey.

Committee members present were Cathy Rubens, Terrie Breen, Jacquelyn Fogel, Michael Houchard, John Ronald, Jon Green, Eduardo Fugiwara, Susan Sholar, William Ellis, Nancy Fisk, and Margaret DiCorleto. Also present were Karolynne McAteer and Tom Powers, AKC Board Liaisons, and Mari-beth O'Neill, AKC Staff.

There were 87 guest delegates present.

Committee members introduced themselves. Brief introductions were also made by Karolynne McAteer, Carl Ashby, Michael Knight, and Jeff Ball, candidates who are running for the AKC Board of Directors.

Nancy Fisk reminded those present that this committee tries to address problems that are brought to our attention. One such problem relates to dog owners who are having trouble caring for their dogs which can put animals at risk, and often allows those with an Animal Rights agenda an opportunity to pounce. The "at risk" sub-committee is a joint sub-committee made up of members and appointees of the All-Breed Clubs Committee and the Parent Clubs Committee. Its goal is to develop guidelines for clubs to identify and assist dog owners in their clubs and the community who are having trouble taking care of their dogs. The hope is to offer a positive outreach and assistance to "at risk" individuals. Dog owners can become "at risk" for any number of reasons such as loss of income, age or illness, or by having more dogs that they can adequately care for.

The "at risk" subcommittee sent out a survey to all AKC clubs asking about what, if anything, clubs do for dog owners who may need assistance in caring for their dogs because of health or financial or other reasons. Preliminary results indicate that many clubs are doing things to help club members in need, and this prevents the AR people and the press from getting involved. The subcommittee will be working on Best Practices guidelines to offer clubs in dealing with such issues should they arise.

Nancy read a letter from Ann Cook, a member of the subcommittee, which addressed an example of a Siberian Husky kennel that had fallen on difficult times and how that breed community came to the rescue. Her full letter follows, but one very important point she made is “one thing we must do is to encourage each breeder to consider the impact that getting involved or not getting involved in an at-risk situation will have on their breed, dog sports, and on the future of all breeding.” What she has to tell us may open some eyes as to the need, and also how we depend on one another, not only for help if the need arises, but also to protect our rights and our sport.

Dear fellow delegates,

Unfortunately, I'm unable to be with you today. Nancy has asked me to share my own observations on recognizing and caring for kennels that have fallen onto difficult times. Many of the breeders of my breed, Siberian Huskies, keep large kennels. This is due to the fact that people work them in teams. Even breeders who do not race their Siberians often run them to keep them fit, healthy, and busy. In addition, Siberian Husky kennels nearly always have a good portion of outdoor space. Housing varies, but the lack of need for heated space means that usually the dogs are in outdoor kennels or on tethers that are linked to individual houses. Observers can therefore see and count the number of dogs on a breeder's property.

I have come to realize that there is a difference in the way Siberian "show people" and those who primarily work/race their Siberians handle at-risk situations. I'm offering my thoughts in the hopes that whatever your breed and kennel numbers may be, you will consider the viewpoint of the racers. Whereas our parent club has occasionally struggled with at-risk situations, nothing has been done on a club level.

The world of racing sled dogs is full of many breeds of dogs, including highly engineered cross-bred dogs created specifically for speed and endurance. Since the 1980's, the sport of dog sledding has been heavily criticized by animal rights activists. The activists have protested at our events, produced misleading writings and films about our sport, and even made headway onto the boards of directors of some of our larger races. The appointments to the boards were a peace offering to try to compromise, but the AR people do not compromise. One of their missions is to end sled dog sports, so these arrangements ultimately failed.

Being directly targeted and falsely accused by AR activists has had a motivating effect on sled dog breeders. The understanding that the management, or shall I say mismanagement of any one kennel among us, is a threat to the existence of all of us is key. An underground pipeline tends to form when a problem is noted, and sled dog people join in to disperse the dogs before an AOC or the press can become aware of the situation. I can state several examples in my own area of New England, but I will mention one. The primary owner of a kennel of 40 Siberians died. Her husband became severely depressed and simply ceased to care for the dogs. An adult son was coming to feed the dogs, but not enough and not frequently enough. Their vaccinations lapsed. Filth built up. Fellow sled doggers slowly became aware of the situation. A close friend of the deceased owner contacted us one by one. Any breeders of the dogs were encouraged to take them back. Dogs that could be rehabilitated were meeted out to any kennel able to take on one or two more. Dogs who needed to be euthanized were seen to by a veterinarian within the sled dog

community, so no word got out. Finally, those sled dog people who could not take on any dogs donated funds to cover health care and updating of vaccinations for dogs who had been placed. No one had to give a lot, because the cost was borne by many.

Having one person ask, in phone calls, "Will you help?" made this a very personal outreach. Awareness that our sport WILL be targeted if any of this gets to the press is vitally important and makes sled dog people rather more forward about approaching those who are in trouble. That awareness is dawning on AKC exhibitors, but it is still something that tends to be divided up on a breed by breed basis, or even on a "we"/"they" basis within breeds. It is hard to feel responsible for the action (or inaction) of other breeders within the fancy, but we must promote that understanding. I feel that one thing we must do is to encourage each breeder to consider the impact that getting involved or not getting involved in an at-risk situation will have on their breed, dog sports, and on the future of all breeding. If we try to raise this sort of awareness, perhaps breeders who are having difficulties will be more receptive to the idea that letting go may be the most important thing one can do to honor the sport and purebred dogs as a whole.

Thank you,

Ann Mariah Cook

Siberian Husky Club of America

At the June Delegates Meeting, "at risk" subcommittee member Maggi Strouse will present tools for preparing for emergency situations including emergency contact cards, phone apps., etc.

The Juniors subcommittee has also conducted a survey about club involvement with Juniors. Many clubs are not doing anything to reach Juniors, while many clubs are doing a lot. Wayne Harmon gave a brief report encouraging clubs to be proactive in reaching out, perhaps through 4-H and FFA groups, and to work with Club Development, signing on to their Facebook page, which has many excellent initiatives to help with junior outreach. There are many ways club members can connect with young people such as giving a presentation about their breed to school or youth groups, holding a match and having Junior judges, scheduling Junior Handling classes during show lunch breaks, offering Pee Wee classes, etc.

Terrie Breen, also a member of this subcommittee, stressed the importance of 4-H groups. She teaches a handling class to 4-H kids and gears it toward AKC showmanship so that students who may want to compete in AKC shows will be prepared. She encouraged clubs to include non-regular programs for 4-H kids such as rally, trick dog, CGC, obedience, and even stewarding—anything to get them involved. She also stressed the importance of using judges that really want to judge Juniors.

Also important is encouraging young people to learn about animal husbandry and breeding. We need to think about the “next generation” of purebred dog breeders if we want our sport to continue.

Nancy commented that there has been much discussion about the issue of small/struggling shows/clubs and their requests for the addition of a third show to help remain financially viable. The All-Breed Clubs committee has attempted to address the many concerns expressed by delegates regarding the difficulties experienced by financially struggling clubs as they attempt to survive on revenue from small, mostly local, dog shows. To gain an understanding of the situation, an advisory group of show chairs from all over the country was formed. The desire of the struggling clubs was to remain close to or within their communities rather than join a cluster. The hope was to add a third show to generate enough revenue to remain viable.

The value of these local shows to the sport include presenting the sport to the public in a family friendly way which might encourage people to see purebred dogs, their breeders and exhibitors in a positive light and as an asset to the community. Also, local shows highlight the “economic impact” of the sport to the local community and therefore the local legislators. Many of these clubs may choose not to join a cluster so they can better serve their local communities, or they may not have a nearby cluster to join.

A proposal has been drafted which states that clubs may be allowed to hold a third show if their show is held within 50 miles of their territory and there are no competing shows within five-hundred-miles on their show weekend. This would preclude adding shows to an already saturated area, such as on the east coast, but would enable clubs in underserved areas of the country to stay alive and healthy. Clubs granted three shows would also have to comply with additional good faith requirements and a three-year sunset clause would check on club success.

There may be the occasional struggling club that needs special treatment despite following all recommendations from Club Development. In these cases, it may be necessary to grant exemptions to certain regulations or policies. The Committee recognizes that such privileges can lead to abuse. We want all recommendations to be case by case based, and not subject to political influence. Therefore, the Committee recommends that all such special cases first exhaust all potential remedies suggested by Club Development before being allowed special considerations. The Committee further recommends that such requests start with

Club Development, proceed with approval from Club Events and only then be referred to AKC's Board for consideration.”

Michael Houchard moved to accept the proposal and send it to the Board. Motion was seconded by Terrie Breen. Motion was approved unanimously by the committee.

Sheila Goffe, AKC Government Relations, reported that her department is busy as always. There are some 2200 bills and 450 regulations under consideration. She reminded delegates that this is an election year and encouraged club members to reach out to legislators. HSUS had a table set up at a nice mall asking for donations. Considering concerns about coronavirus and importation of dogs, there have not been any new changes in policy because some changes are already in place.

Nancy reminded delegates to go to Legislation 101 for guidelines about successful advocacy [www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/government-relations/toolbox/presentations](http://www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/government-relations/toolbox/presentations)

Mari-beth O'Neill reported that 7 Lunch and Learn events are planned, Junior scholarship applications are coming in, and the number of Juniors has gone up.

Warren Cook thanked the committee for addressing the small club issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret DiCorleto, Secretary

Delegate for the Chow Club Inc.

## AKC ALL-BREED CLUBS COMMITTEE

ZOOM MEETING JUNE 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM ET.

Present were Nancy Fisk, Chair, Eduardo Fugiwara, John Ronald, Cathy Rubens, Terrie Breen, Bill Ellis, Susan Sholar, Mike Houchard, Margaret DiCorleto, and Jackie Fogel (late). Also present were Rita Biddle and Karolynne McAteer, AKC Board Liaisons, and Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC Staff.

There were approximately 125 delegates observing the meeting.

The minutes of the March committee meeting in Newark and a June 8 teleconference committee meeting were approved.

Nancy asked for reports from the Board representatives. Karolynne thanked the AKC IT people for their work in setting up the Zoom committee meetings. She said that she follows the discussions on the delegates list and is pleased to see so many people sharing information. There is a new Board ad hoc committee that will provide timely updates to delegates.

Rita Biddle said that she is looking forward to working with this committee as Board Liaison.

Nancy thanked Tom Davies and members of the Board for initiating the various Zoom meetings.

Mari-Beth O'Neill reported that the North Carolina office is open for mailing and printing. Event staff is busy processing the many virtual events that are taking place, and some staff is returning to the office under careful guidelines. The phone lines are busy with people calling and dogs are being registered.

There have been five breed standards submitted by Parent Clubs for review.

Veterinary outreach events have been paused. Veterinary and Juniors scholarships have been awarded.

Rita said the Virtual Dog Challenge had been well received with nearly 700 entries.

Nancy announced that Jon Green has resigned from our committee since he will no longer be serving as a delegate. She thanked him for his service as a delegate and as a member of this committee.

Margaret gave a preliminary report from the "at risk" subcommittee. She stressed that there is still work to be done on the recommendations but she offered the following:

**Be aware of your membership. Establish a "Sunshine" type committee to check in with elderly members and/or members who have not attended club meetings or events for some time. Check in with members in the event of any natural disaster or major weather event.**

**Remain non-judgmental of the person who might need help. Focus on the needs of the dogs. Remember even small changes in a person's life can result in big consequences.**

**Consider establishing a list of club members who are willing to help and what they are willing to do, example feed or bathe dogs, run essential errands for owner.**

**Consider establishing an Emergency Fund for club members in need. Money would not be given directly to the person but could be used to purchase dog food, crates or supplies. Make sure this would not violate your club's bylaws.**

**Make sure your club's presence is known to local veterinarians, animal control, and shelters and encourage them to use your club as a resource if they become aware of a potential problem. Provide them with the name of a designated club contact person.**

**For Parent Clubs: Inform club members of approved breed rescue groups or individuals that they can contact in their area. Encourage regional clubs to follow the suggested guidelines.**

During the current pandemic, it is especially important to stay in touch with club members.

The committee will expand on some of these points and address the issue of liability. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

There was discussion of the Juniors sub-committee. There are several committees working on Juniors and club involvement. It was suggested that in conjunction with the Coordinating Committee a joint committee be formed which would include representatives from conformation and performance committees. Mari-Beth O'Neill would be on the committee.

Nancy reminded everyone that this is an election year, a time to learn about local candidates and their positions on dog related issues. Donations to AKC Political Action Committee can include recommendations in support of your local candidate. Visit [www.akc.org/pac](http://www.akc.org/pac) to learn more and contribute.

A report submitted by Sheila Goffe, VP Government Relations, addressed COVID-19 Legal Liability which represents uncharted legal territory. The AKC GR team is monitoring efforts at the federal and state level to establish liability protections for businesses and individuals. It is also seeking to ensure that such measures would protect AKC event-giving clubs that are trying to get back on their feet. Go to [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org) for details and reports. This is a different address than akc.org.

The Healthy Dog Imports Act (HR 6921) has been introduced in Congress after years of work by the GR Department and the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) to bring attention to the public health threat associated with the importation of sick dogs into the US. This Act provides the USDA with tools to monitor and safeguard the health of all dogs being imported into the US. Details about the issue and the bill can be found on the AKC GR Key Issues page on [Pet Imports: Protecting Pet and Public Health](http://www.akcgr.org) at [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

Nancy urged all delegates to review the Dog Show Cancellation Report and how the information can be used and improved upon to help in our changed world. Terrie stressed the importance of reviewing Best Practices. She said clubs need to protect themselves and their budgets. It's important to look at not only what profit might be but also what losses might be and monitor those losses by using a timeline. This way if the show has to be cancelled, the club will know exactly how much it is going to cost at the time of cancellation. If a contract has a Force Majeure clause, the show committee should understand exactly what it means. Details about refunds to anyone associated with a show or event should be explicitly stated in writing. If a club is holding an event during the current pandemic, who is responsible for monitoring the AKC Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participation. (check [www.akc.org/sports/conformation/](http://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/) for updates) Assigned tasks should be in writing. Eduardo recommended that international judges be asked to have travel health insurance.

Nancy had asked the committee to come up with ideas to offer clubs about how to survive and thrive during these difficult times. Terrie offered the following: Review club finances. Did the club incur expenses and losses if the show was cancelled? How can the club recoup or restructure before the next show? As a result of cancellation, many clubs lost fund raising activities. Think of new and creative ways to raise money. Put safety precautions in place so that exhibitors will feel safe at the event.

Eduardo stated that “the best way to our sport getting back to ‘normalcy’ will be starting with ‘specialties’ and maybe group specialties.” Small specialties can be held in small venues such as private property or a park. He said he checked with AKC’s Glen Lycan who said AKC doesn’t have to approve such sites. Clubs can use local judges and provisional judges to reduce costs. A show secretary can replace the need for a show superintendent. An all-breed club that has a 1200 dog show could offer 2 days of back to back shows and limited entry of 600 per show. That would make it easier to comply with local government policies and allow exhibitors to spread out throughout the facility and comply with safety requirements. The 2 small shows in one day would keep the club’s profitability while making a safe and more manageable environment overall.

Club Development staff has been very helpful and responsive to clubs during the COVID situation. Karolynne added that some 11,000 events have been cancelled.

John said that his Parent Club (Samoyed Club of America) show is being held in the Fall but expects to lose a large sum of money because of lower than usual entry. He emphasized the importance of looking at liability and contracts carefully. He noted that some shows are coming back with limited entries and wondered what the show calendar will look like in the coming year.

Karolynne said we will have to wait and see how things play out. There may be rules that stay in place which will have an impact on shows. She reminded that the AKC Rep should not be viewed as the “safety police”.

Nancy suggested that we may have to have smaller shows and rethink the offering of large clusters. Community based shows may make a comeback.

Karolynne suggested that exhibitors with less disposable income may impact entries. John added that conformation events are typically lower profit.

Jackie added that her all-breed club uses 4-H helpers at shows and offers things like FCAT. Handlers are eager to attend shows, but local exhibitors may be more cautious. Eduardo added that performance event people join together and can work with all-breed clubs. Jackie added that she has been offering seminars on grooming and conformation which she hopes will help reduce the “scare factor” for new exhibitors.

John raised the issue of electronic balloting for Parent Clubs. He would like to know how a club can be re-incorporated in a state that allows e-balloting for the general membership. Mail balloting is expensive. He would like to see a data base of resources.

Rita reminded the committee of the email sent to all clubs from Lisa Cecin, Club Relations, about adding teleconferencing, videoconferencing, and virtual/electronic meetings to club bylaws.

Nancy closed the meeting by requesting that any comments or questions be sent to her at [nancybfisk@aol.com](mailto:nancybfisk@aol.com) or [akikoakitas@aol.com](mailto:akikoakitas@aol.com)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Margaret DiCorleto, Secretary

Delegate for the Chow Chow Club Inc.

**Bylaws Committee Meeting**  
**March 9, 2020**  
**DoubleTree Hotel, Newark, NJ**

This was an abbreviated meeting due to the AKC planned visit to the AKC Museum of the Dog.

Committee members present: Chairman Gretchen Bernardi, Mississippi Valley KC; Secretary Dr. John Ioia, Southern Adirondack Dog Club; Sylvia Arrowood, Myrtle Beach Kennel Club; Dr. Gregory J. Paveza, Elm City Kennel Club; Julian Prager, Esq., Central Florida KC; Dr. Pamela Stacey Rosman, Canaan Dog Club of America; Abbe Shaw, Santa Barbara KC; Dr. Dawn Schroeder, Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.; Glenda Stephenson, Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay

Absent: Kathy Coxwell, Bearded Collie Club of America; Jan M. Ritchie-Gladstone, Esq., Richmond Dog Fanciers Club

Board Liaisons: Dominic P. Carota; Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.; Staff Liaison: Gina DiNardo, AVP, AES

Chairman Gretchen Bernardi called the meeting to order at 10:45AM.

The committee members and liaisons introduced themselves.

The minutes of the December 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected (Rosman – unanimous).

Chairman's Report: Gretchen welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

Gretchen introduced the first agenda item concerning the election of Directors by Class Vs Plurality, discussing the actions of the Nominating Committee in selecting the candidates for the full term and the one-year term. This does not affect the current election. She provided information from the opinion of AKC Council Jay Wax. This has precedence and has been used since 1971 (3X). Gretchen asked the Committee members their opinions. There are two issues to be considered. One has to do with the nominating process and the second, the balloting procedure. Committee members gave their opinions. Jay Wax also indicated that NYSNFP Corp. Law requires election by Class. The question of whether the Committee favored changing the election to one similar to that which elects committee members was queried as a straw poll. The count was 5 for: 3 against.

Gina DiNardo again explained that current procedure has been in practice by AKC since at least 1971, having done some research into the matter. Therefore,

there is precedence and has been confirmed by legal and parliamentary opinion. Dominic Carota confirmed this as Best Practices.

It was also noted by our Parliamentarian members that having the Secretary cast one vote is inappropriate by Roberts' Rules of Order, since this should be a Delegate. There was discussion of forming a Subcommittee on the Election Process.

There was no further discussion on this.

Gretchen has appointed a Subcommittee to review the entire Bylaws for possible needed changes: Sylvia Arrowood, Gregory J. Paveza, Jan M. Ritchie-Gladstone, and Dawn Schroeder.

In discussing the formation of the Delegate Committees, John pointed out that the Standing Rule was put in place in June of 1993.

There was a discussion of Term Limits and the deleterious effect that many feel it has had on function. There was a great deal of passionate discussion, as usual about this and whether the time off after two terms should be extended or whether term limits should be abolished. In the end there was no interest to revisit this.

Pam Rosman did a brief report on the DNA Committee formed by the Board. This committee will explore the possibilities of canine genetic testing and the areas of concern regarding testing. They will work on a glossary of terms. There will also be work on regulations, identification and effects on registrations. There will be a report at the September meeting.

There was a motion to amend the Bylaws to remove the requirement for the Secretary hard-copy mail meeting announcements, which can be handled by email (Prager/Rosman – Unanimous)

Before adjourning, Julian stated that his club will be proposing a plan to reorganize and reformat the AKC Bylaws. There was also a very brief discussion on Proxy Voting, which in NYS N-PCL section 609 permits proxy voting unless prohibited by the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws. In the case of the AKC, it is prohibited in the Bylaws.

Motion to adjourn at 12:15 PM Shaw/Preveza - Unanimous.

John V. Iola, MD, PhD  
Committee Secretary  
March 11, 2020

**Guest attendance:**

Jamie Ashby  
Jeffrey Ball  
Rita Biddle  
Viola Burgos  
Barbara Burns  
Marge Calltharp  
Connie Clark  
Cindy Collins  
Bryna Comsky  
Beverly Cook  
Jan Croft  
Kristina DeLisi  
Beverly Drake  
Lorraine Eadon  
Sally Fineburg  
Winola Flynn  
Debby Fowler  
Don Gillett  
Jim Henson  
Barry Hoovis  
Barbara C. Ioia  
Carolynn Johnson  
Dr. Sophia Kaluznincki  
Michael Knight  
Pat Kronomeyer  
Steve Lawrence  
Ken Levison  
Larry Libeu  
Crystal Messersmith  
Nancy Perrell  
Joseph Philip  
Tom Pincus  
Isabel Ososki  
Laura Radwell  
Amy Romeo  
Robert Schroll  
Barbara Shaw  
Johnny Shoemaker  
Dan Stolz  
Mary Stolz  
Marjorie Underwood  
Richella Veatch  
Marilyn Vinson  
Doreen Weintraub  
Tami D. Worley  
Mike Van Tassell

Carolina KC  
Ramapo KC  
Ingham Co KC  
Naugatuck Valley KC  
Rockford Freeport IL KC  
Chinese Shar-Pei CoA  
Am Fox Terrier Club  
Genesee County KC  
Chicago Collie Club  
Reno KC  
Land O' Lakes KC  
Central Iowa KC  
Catonsville KC  
Ventura Co DFA  
Hatboro KC  
South Shore KC  
Trinity Valley KC  
Troy KC  
Mahoning-Shenango KC  
Monticello KC  
Butler Co KC  
Grand Rapids KC  
Canada Del Oro KC  
Texas KC  
Grand Rapids KC  
Toy Dog Club of Western Mass  
Tucson KC  
Santa Maria KC  
Columbia KC  
Superstition KC  
Greater Lowell KC  
Houston KC  
St. Louis KC  
Anderson KC  
Mohawk Valley KC  
Clarksville KC  
Greater Collin KC  
Redwood Empire KC  
Clearwater KC  
Tampa Bay KC  
Clermont Co KC  
Tennessee Valley KC  
SE Iowa KC  
Kenilworth KC  
Clackamas KC  
Intermountain KC

AKC Companion Events Committee  
Minutes  
March 9, 2020  
Doubletree by Hilton Airport Hotel  
Newark, NJ

The meeting of AKC Companion Events Committee was called to order by Chair. Gail LaBerge at 10:45 am.

Committee members present: James. M Ashton, Jack Cadalso, Ruth Crumb, Dr. Joyce Dandridge, Felice Jarrold, Chair, Gail LaBerge, Dr. Norine Noonan, Patricia Sample, Secretary, and Larry Wilson.

Also in attendance: Doug Ljungren, AKC Executive Vice President of Sports and Events and Steven Hamblin, AKC Board of Directors Liaison.

Introduction of CEC members and AKC Staff.

Gail LaBerge, Chair reported due to the shorten time schedule for the meeting, we would try to cover as much as possible.

Minutes of December 12, 2019 were approved as published.

**Doug Ljungren reported on the following Companion Events:**

- Agility entries were down (26,027) and number of events had increased by 83
- Obedience entries were down (5,440) and number of events were down (16)
- Rally entries were up 17,786 and number of events increased by 53
- Tracking entries down (180) and number of events decreased by (24)
- AKC Junior Showcase Events for 2020 – 5 applied for. Doug also reported if a club is interested in offering a Junior Showcase Event to write, [rally@akc.org](mailto:rally@akc.org), or [agility@akc.org](mailto:agility@akc.org)

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- AKC National Agility Championship to be held in Perry, Georgia March 27-29, 2020
- AKC Rally National Championship (RNC) and AKC National Obedience Championship (NOC) to be held in Wilmington, Ohio June 26-28, 2020 with RNC to be held on Friday and the NOC to be held on Saturday and Sunday.
- Doug also reported to become effective May 1, 2020 that Alaskan malamute obedience jump height to be approved as a breed eligible for the three-quarter jump height at the request of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America.
- Proposed to allow numeric designations on titles for lower level classes, to encourage participants to stay in AKC Obedience. A Proposal for Revitalizing the A Classes in the Sport of Obedience was submitted by Anderson Obedience Training Club member and AKC Obedience/Rally Judge, Richard Strong for consideration. Patricia Sample moved, James Ashton, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion that AKC Staff develop this concept of numeric designation on titles for lower level classes. Motion passed. Ruth Crumb requested that CEC be informed before any proposal is submitted to AKC Board of Directors for their approval.
- Allowing Special Event Obedience & Rally Trials- A proposal to allow clubs licensed for obedience and rally to hold two Special Event Obedience and/or Rally events per year. A Special Event Trial is defined as one where the club proposes a unique mix of AKC obedience and/or rally classes or a unique eligibility criteria. The purpose is to keep the sports fresh and fun. The proposal is to be presented to the AKC Board of Director in April 2020. James Ashton moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack Cadalso that the committee support this proposal. Motion passed.
- My Dog's Got Talent. AKC Staff are working to develop Regulations outlining two divisions for this potential new sport to attract new people to AKC. Division #1 Dog & Handler- no costumes, props or music are used. Division #2 Costumes/Props/ Music – any or all at discretion of the handler. Regulations are to be written to address what is required, how to score it and who may judge.
- AKC Temperament Test was launched on November 1, 2020. Between November thru December clubs held 50 Temperament Tests with 1010 entries. It was mentioned this was an event that clubs could add to their

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activities for their All-Breed events. AKC Board Liaison Steve Hamblin praised the addition of the Temperament Test. Patricia Sample ask if more could be done to publicize to clubs the Temperament Test and to let their members know that dogs can earn an AKC Temperament Test title. Additional information can be found at [www.akc.org/akctemptest/](http://www.akc.org/akctemptest/)

DQ by Event Committee will be voted at this Delegate meeting. Doug reported that there have been additional changes on the DQ forms that are to be submitted by the Event Committee to AKC.

Letter from AKC Obedience/Rally judge, Randy Capsel for Consideration of Fix-N-Go type option for obedience trials. As a competitor and Obedience/Rally judge, Randy is asking for implementation of a Fix-N-Go pilot program for obedience trials. Randy's letter also offered some Options for consideration. The CEC asked Doug for the Obedience Department to consider the Fix-N-Go option for obedience trials.

Letter was presented and read by Stephen P Hersey, AKC Delegate, Skye Terrier Club of America, and AKC Rally Judge. The proposal was a new titling class in Rally a "Veterans Class" with the letter RV added after the name of each dog that has been certified by at least two different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Veterans class.

Dr. Norine Noonan reported on Action Plan – Ideas/Strategies for Clubs to Motivate More Advanced Training/Competition (beyond CD). Some Ideas were:

- Introduce more advanced skills earlier in the dog's training life
- Offer transition classes, such as an "Advanced Basic", "Graduate Novice", or "Pre-Open-Utility"
- Short-duration (3-4 weeks) "skills "classes
- Establishing a "mentor" program in clubs
- Use of "AKC Trick "dog sequence to reinforce skills such as heeling, retrieving, jumping and signal exercises.
- It was also suggested that AKC use online resources to develop training resources.

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- Committee would like to develop a survey to send to delegates requesting input.

Chair, Gail LaBerge requested committee to review the CEC Best Practices and offer feedback. Also reported that we may be going to io. Group or Google instead of present Yahoo Group for Companion Events. Dr. Norine Noonan and Chair Gail LaBerge will be working on setting up the group.

An executive session will follow to appoint replacement on the Companion Events Committee. Barbara Mann, Delegate for Dayton Dog Training Club has resigned. Barbara was a long-time member of the Companion Events Committee and will be greatly missed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia A. Sample, Delegate Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.

Companion Events Committee  
Executive Session  
March 9, 2020  
Doubletree by Hilton Airport Hotel  
Newark, NJ  
Appointing vacancy on Companion Events Committee

Chair, Gail Laberge called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. Gail reported that long time member of the Companion Events Committee, Barbara Mann has resigned. Barbara has been a valuable contributing member to the committee and will be greatly missed.

Gail reported that a notice of vacancy to be filled was reported in the March 9, 2020 Delegate Committee Meeting Agendas. This appointment will be in effect until the Committee elections in September 2020. It was requested if interested to send a short biographic prior to the March 9, 2020 Committee meeting to the Committee Chair, Gail LaBerge.

Gail reported she had only one response, although she had been approached by delegates who were interested in the position. It was discussed as to whether to wait until June meeting for the replacement or to appoint at this meeting. Committee agreed to proceed.

James Ashton moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Wilson to approve Stephen P. Hersey, Delegate for Skye Terrier Club of America. Motion carried. Stephen will serve until Companion Events Committee elections in September 2020.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Patricia A Sample, Delegate Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.

AKC Companion Events Executive Committee Meeting  
March 9, 2020  
Doubletree by Hilton Newark Airport Hotel  
Newark, NJ

**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>
1. Betty Ann Brown	Hendersonville NC KC
2. Christine Conb	Kanadasaga KC
3. Gary Sarvinas	Maryland KC
4. Mary McDaniel DVM	Lakeland Winter Haven KC
5. Richard Su	Keeshond Club of America
6. Debbie Owens	Louisville Kc
7. Willie Crawford	Newnan KC
8. Wayne Harmon	Cambridge MN KC
9. Jan Wolf	Lexington KC
10. Adele Keyfel	Yakima Valley KC
11. Karen Gunzel	Trenton KC
12. Tami Worley	Clackamas KC
13. Steve Hersey	Skye Terrier Club of America
14. Terrie Breen	Farmington Valley KC
15. Diana Skibinski	Lake Shore Kennel Club
16. Karen Cottingham	Salisbury MD Kennel Club
17. Robyn Foust	Idaho Capital Kennel Club
18. Peggy Doster	Kennel Club of Buffalo
19. Audrey Nash	Town & Country Kennel Club
20. Marylyn DeGregorio	Taconic Hills Kennel Club
21. Mary Curtis	First Dog T.C. Northern NJ
22. Linda Wozniak	Durham Kennel Club
23. Martha Beckington	Mount Vernon Dog TC
24. Joyce Engle	Northeastern Maryland KC
25. Carol Johnson	Grand Rapids Kennel Club
26. Teresa Vila	Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.
27. Terri Hallman	Charleston Kennel Club

**DAAC**  
**MARCH 9, 2020**

Members in attendance: Mary Lou Olszewski, Ellen Hardin, Dan Stolz, Dick Blair, Carl Ashby, Marjorie Tuff, Jack McCullagh, Marylyn DeGregorio, Marge Calltharp. Dan Smyth, Board Liaison. Absent: Jane Ruthford, Mimi Winkler. Guests: Ann Lettis, Grand River KC; Dr. Joyce Dandridge, Capitol Dog Training Club; Bryna Comsky, Chicago Collie Club; Richard Rosenthal, Kuvasz Club of America.

The DAAC meeting was opened at 9:00 am by Mary Lou Olszewski, Chair.

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2019 meeting as emailed to each member was made by Dan Stolz, seconded by Ellen Hardin. There were no corrections, additions, or changes made and the motion passed unanimously.

AKC-TV has published a new list of programs. We should take advantage of watching.

Discussion took place on the proposed amendment changes to be voted on tomorrow.

Dick Blair reported that there were seven new delegates attending this meeting from those approved in January/February; two were from last year. In total nine new delegates out of a possible twenty attended with mentors this morning.

Due to the additional time allotted to the new delegate mentoring program with the earlier start time, the possibility of lengthening the time was discussed. The committee agreed to request the morning session be increased to 45 minutes versus the 30 minutes now allotted. The start time to be 8:15 am. This will allow the session to feel not so rushed.

Ellen Hardin reported that she brought 20 plus name badges. She also brought yellow ribbon style badges to be used by new delegates on committee day. We all agreed they are fabulous and a great addition. A big thanks was given to Ellen. Please great and welcome the new delegates.

Dan Stolz – Clubs without a Delegate – No report for this meeting.

Jane Ruthford & Ellen Hardin – Dog Club Sustainability – No report due to Jane's absence.

Marge Calltharp – Website Issues – reported regarding the request to provide a separate list of Delegate Judges. This is not possible by the Judge Department at this time. I have other people I am going to contact especially since a new Delegate Directory is being published. Delegate Judges are identified by an asterisk, it should not be difficult to sort out those names. Marketplace reported they believe they fixed the spam problem.

Marylyn DeGregorio – reported things are going smoothly on the Google list. She stated one person posted candidate voting information. However, remember once a post is made, the information is out there. Please do not post inappropriate information. She will report back to the committee how many members are on the DAAC Google list.

The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding 4-H kid's programs and AKC juniors. AKC needs to define what a Junior dog is. Marjorie Tuff and Marylyn will come up with a list of problems with Juniors, i.e., dog registration regarding dogs for Juniors, etc. They will bring them to the committee.

Mary Lou discussed the establishment of Sub-Committees. She is going to discuss during the Coordinating Committee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Marge B Calltharp  
Secretary

**DELEGATE ADVOCACY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**ZOOM SESSION – JUNE 17, 2020**  
**MINUTES**

Members present: Mary Lou Olszewski, Ellen Harden, Dick Blair, Jane Ruthford, Jack McCullagh, Marylyn DeGregorio, Dan Stolz, Mimi Winkler, Marjorie Tuff, Carl Ashby, Marge Calltharp  
AKC Board liaison: Dan Smyth, Tom Powers  
AKC Staff Liaison: Keith Frazier, Executive VP Business Support

Meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Olszewski, Chair at 3:00 pm. Everyone on the committee and those who joined in via Zoom were welcomed.

Jack McCullagh made a motion, seconded by Jane Ruthford to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting as emailed to each member. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Dan Smyth spoke as Board Liaison – The Board continues to meet regularly via Zoom. The meeting minutes have been forwarded to everyone by Gina DiNardo to read. Over 11,000 dog shows/events have been cancelled thru December.

Tom Powers spoke as Board Liaison – He concurred that @ 50% of AKC shows have been cancelled. Some of the performance events are starting up; like Lure Coursing, CGC, Scent work, etc. and that's encouraging. The events that are starting are those that are easily participated in by observing social distancing.

Keith Frazer spoke as AKC Staff – 20 percent of the Raleigh, NC Staff are in the office, while the remainder are working from home. He said he is usually in the office and gave kudos to IT Staff for getting operations quickly up to speed.

All incoming mail is scanned daily and forwarded to workers who are working from home. The stockroom is shipping out products as is normal practice. Title and pedigree certificates are being mailed. Registrations and events are being planned and approved. Those departments are active.

IT has built and continues to maintain the infrastructure. The support groups can serve internal customers remotely. They assist those working remotely with any problems that arise. Standard operations of the AKC have not missed a beat.

When the office reopens, each employee will receive a 'welcome back bag'. Each bag will contain PPE. The office will be a different environment; safe distancing, cleaning of high touch areas, coffee pots and snack machines will be turned off, entrance doors will be locked to the public to manage visitors, etc. A safe environment and the safety of workers is paramount. We all look forward to more normalcy.

Tom Powers remarked that registrations are on the increase and possibly has something to do with the fact people are staying at home and have more time for puppies.

Keith Frazier said he is thankful for the uptick which is a bright light to the future.

Dick Blair reported that in the past quarter there were:

Five new delegates approved in April, with one having previously been a delegate

Six new delegates approved in May.

The welcome letters had to be re-written to tell them they will not be physically attending a meeting in June but will be attending by Zoom. Instructions were forwarded by Paula, Amy and Gina on how they were to register for the meetings.

Mary Lou stated that the welcoming documents need a review to make sure they have current information. Is there a way the documents can be stored on the DAAC Google site if, God forbid, something would happen to Dick. Jane said she would set-up. Amy and Keith can help with storage on the delegate portal.

Dan said that historically, @20 years ago there was a delegate handbook in a hard copy and was discontinued a while back.

Jane Ruthford has a copy of that handbook. Everyone thought having a handbook was a good idea. Dick Blair, Jane, Mimi Winkler, and Marjorie Tuff will be on the team to design a document/handbook. This document will be available on the portal in an electronic form versus in paper print. Dick will still send out the welcome letter as is currently being done.

The handbook will include information a new delegate will want to know including how to save money while attending a meeting, where to go to eat, by-laws, link to organizational charts, hospitals, first aide, etc. With a simple click on a button, your question can be answered.

Keith suggested a centralized location for all paperwork can be set-up on the Delegate Portal and AKC can maintain. AKC Staff are also available to assist with the design. The information will be stored for use far beyond our time as a delegate.

It was agreed that an outline of what can/should be in the handbook by September 2020 meeting.

September New Delegate Orientation, a.k.a. Speed Dating style was discussed. Will the September meeting will be in person or via Zoom. The new delegate orientation is best if conducted face to face. Consensus was to plan for the event in December unless by some miracle a September face to face meeting is practicle. Keith to look at the scheduling in December to see what dates are available.

Jane Ruthford – Dog Club Sustainability – Dan Stolz and Ellen Hardin are also on the committee Jane will forward her outline to committee members for feedback.

Marge Calltharp – Website Issues – It's been quiet so far. There are two new contacts at AKC – Reid Simmons and Paulina Miller. Keith also can be contacted.

Junior's Update – Ellen has requested she be included to join the Junior's sub-committee. No decision has been made.

One of the first questions that needs to be addressed is 'What is a Junior's Dog'. Marjorie Tuff said she is still waiting for a definition. Is a Junior's dog one that you own and train yourself or one someone else has owned and trained and the Junior's name is added later. Marjorie is also requesting she be included

on the sub-committee. It was suggested that Marjorie should come up with her definition versus waiting for others to establish one.

Marylyn DeGregorio – Google List Everyone seems to be behaving.

Mary Lou asked how to or who can confirm who is on the DAAC Google List. She will ask Amy.

Old Business

DAAC Charge – postponed until another meeting

Joint Sub Committees – more details in September

Video expansion – postponed

New Business

Self-nominations for committees are due in September. Marge, Marjorie and MiMi terms will expire and they will need to submit their nomination. AKC will send out information on how to send in a nomination.

Dan was asked regarding the voting process if the September is via Zoom. AKC is prepared to do voting online if there is no face to face meeting in Newark, NJ. A service will be used to count the votes.

Mary Lou urged us to think about the DAAC charge and how it could be phrased so it's easy to understand. Her thought is "DAAC is here to proactively help Delegates and to be there for AKC Clubs."

Keith reported that Amy reported to him that all DAAC members are on the DAAC Google List. Staff is not on our list, so we will need to send an email directly to Keith and/or Staff if we need something.

Jack made the motion, seconded by Marjorie (and Ellen) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:32p.m.

Marge B Calltharp  
Secretary

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Dog Show Rules Committee – March 9, 2020**

Chairperson Cindy Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members present were:

Dr. Duane Butherus, Delaware Water Gap KC  
Linda Flynn, Secretary, South Shore KC  
Cindy Miller, Waterloo KC  
Harry Miller, American Foxhound Club  
Nancy Perrell, Superstition KC  
Robert Schroll, Clarksville KC  
Barbara Schwartz, German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America  
Barbara Shaw, Greater Collin KC  
Johnny Shoemaker, Redwood Empire KC  
Cindy Stansell, Finnish Spitz Club of America  
Marilyn Vinson, Southeastern Iowa KC

Staff Liaison Gina DiNardo Gwynne was present, along with AKC Board Liaison members Rita Biddle, Ingham County KC and Tom Davies, Springfield KC. Also present were Board member Harold Tatro, Fort Worth KC and Tim Thomas, VP, Dog Show Judges.

Delegate guests present were: Jaimie Ashby, Carolina KC; Gloria Askins, Greenville KC; Dean Burwell, Piedmont KC; John Buddie, Collie Club of America; Joan Church, Garden State All Terrier Club; Connie Clark, American Fox Terrier Club; Daniel Dahlberg, Manatee KC; Linda Deutsch, Plainfield KC; Fred Ferris, CT River Working Dog Club; Sandie Friend, Virginia KC; Donna Gilbert, Greenwich KC; Victoria Glickstein, Bryn Mawr KC; Barry Hoovis, Monticello NY KC; Carol Lynn Johnson, Grand Rapids KC; Pat Kronemeyer (guest, Grand Rapids KC); Stacey LaForge, Tibetan Terrier Club of America; Stephen Lawrence, Classic Toy Dog Club; Kenneth Levison, Tucson KC; Aletta Moore, Airedale Terrier Club of America; Jeannette Nieder, Merrimack Valley KC; Isabel Ososki, St. Louis Collie Club; Julian Prager, Central Florida KC; Diane Reid, Briard Club of America; Laura Rockwell, Anderson KC; Patricia Sample, Anderson Obedience Training Club; Gary Sarvinas, Maryland KC; Dawn Schroeder, Scottsdale Dog Fanciers; Gloria Shaver, Skyline KC; Abbe Shaw, Santa Barbara KC; Glenda Stephenson, Space Coast KC; Mike Van Tassell, Intermountain KC; Richella Veatch, Tennessee Valley KC; Kim von Hemert, Lackawanna KC; Larry Wilson, Philadelphia Dog Training Club; and Michael Zarlenga, American Water Spaniel Club

Chairperson Cindy Miller welcomed the guests.

### **Item 1 – Chairman's Housekeeping Items**

Chairperson Miller gave an update on items sent to the Board: Ch 14, Secs. 3, 4, 6 and 6A; Ch. 15, Sec. 2; and Ch. 7, Sec. 12. Amendments to Ch. 11, Sec. 8A, Ch. 9, Sec. 2 and Ch. 14, Sec. 5 are to be voted at the Delegates meeting.

She announced the June deadlines: Agenda due to Paula by May 1; Committee requests for Tim Thomas and staff by April 30; Committee agenda finalized by May 15.

**Item 2 – Board Liaison Report**

Tom Davies reported that at its February meeting the Board approved the following amendments to be read in March and approved in June: Ch. 11, Sec. 9 – eliminating references to specific diseases; Ch. 3, Secs. 3, 8A and 11 – which adds a Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class. The Board also approved NOHS levels similar to Grand Championship levels and a modification in 4 to 6 Puppy Competition eligibility regulations to allow assistants and minor children of professional handlers to compete in 4 to 6. Barbara Shaw asked about the effective date on the change in 4 to 6 puppy eligibility, and Tim Thomas responded it is effective now. Tom also reported that staff estimate that 28.2% of households exhibiting in Best Puppy in 2018 were new to conformation, and of that percentage, 78% continued to show in regular conformation classes. Some go on to participate in CAT/Fast CAT, Rally and Obedience. In 2019, there were 964 BPUP events, up 151 events (19%) compared to 2018.

Cindy Miller thanked Tim on behalf of the Committee for the Board updates we receive following each Board meeting. It is much appreciated.

**Item 3 – Staff Update**

Gina DiNardo reported that Parent Clubs will be receiving information on Meet the Breeds on the road expanding to multiple sites. Barbara Shaw raised the question of costs, and Gina asked that questions concerning costs be sent to her.

**Item 8 – Ch. 16, Sec. 6 – Grand Championship Points**

Tim Thomas explained the proposed amendment would allow Grand Championship points to be awarded the same as Championship points are awarded at independent specialty shows with Best of Breed competition. For recognized varieties at independent specialties offering Best of Breed, the dog awarded Best of Breed would receive the highest number of GC points awarded in any variety at the specialty. The Best of Opposite Sex would receive the highest number of GC points in its sex awarded in any variety at the specialty. Upon motion by Cindy Stansell, seconded by Johnny Shoemaker, the proposed amendment to Ch. 16, Sec. 6 was opened for discussion. Barbara Shaw noted that coming from a breed with three varieties, this will be welcomed. **It was unanimously voted to request Board consideration of approval of the amendment to Chapter 16, Section 6 to add the following paragraph at the end of Section 6:**

*At independently held specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties, if a dog designated Best of Variety is also awarded Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of any variety entered at that specialty show. If a dog designated Best of Variety or Best of Opposite Sex in its variety is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of its sex in any variety entered at that specialty show. Such points shall not be in addition to, but inclusive of, any Grand Championship points previously awarded the dog in its variety competition.*

**Item 4 – Streamlining AKC Premium List requirements**

The Committee discussed recommendations made by staff to streamline premium list requirements:

- Reduce the Ramp information section to list only the breeds that must be examined on a ramp. Provide a link to the complete list of Table and Ramp breeds. Leave the emergency statement as is.
- Require any new sports provide guidelines for the sport for a full year. Following that year, the guidelines may be reduced to information pertinent to the entry of the dog for the competition with a link to the complete regulations. This request is based on the NOHS guidelines currently required to be printed in the premium list.
- Change the rule to allow for not listing Ribbons and Ribbon colors in the premium list.

Cindy Stansell asked whether we are still waiting for the Superintendents to respond. Cindy Miller felt that the Superintendents were not anxious to respond since they charge per page, and felt we could proceed in the interim. Johnny Shoemaker asked removing classes and Tim Thomas responded that since all are optional except American Bred and Open, it would be best to list all classes. Thom Davies suggested we may not wish to run a train with the Superintendents as conductors. We should be dealing with this on our own. **A subcommittee consisting of Marilyn Vinson, Chairperson, Nancy Perrell and Johnny Shoemaker was appointed to review the premium list information required by AKC with Tim Thomas and report back with recommendations at the June meeting.**

**Item 5 – Ch. 14, Sec. 2 – Identification in the Ring**

Cindy Miller reminded the Committee that Julian Prager proposed comments to the amendment at the December meeting. Tom Davies asked if the amendment would prohibit exhibitors from wearing Best in Show pins in the ring. Barbara Shaw objected to this, noting that a judge does not look at the lapel pins on an exhibitor. Cindy Stansell suggested that the amendment not go forward. Tim Thomas noted that when an amendment to this section was recently brought up, the objections were due to a misunderstanding that the proposal would add something that didn't previously exist, when in fact it was only to add into the Rule current allowances permitted for years by the Board policy regarding badges and pins in the ring. **It was agreed there would be no further action on this proposed amendment; the rule will remain as currently published in the Rules.**

**Item 6 – Ch. 2, Sec. 10 – Applying for Sweepstakes**

Johnny Shoemaker brought this to the Committee in order to find a way to make applying for Sweepstakes more straightforward. Tom Davies asked why a club needs to apply for sweepstakes. Tim Thomas noted that the process has been streamlined significantly; the submission enables Events to track and process the event, but he suggested questions on this should be directed to Alan Slay. Cindy Stansell noted that Sweepstakes and Futurities are not recorded by AKC. Tom Davies commented that if a group club wishes to offer sweepstakes for one breed, it must be offered for every breed in the group. It was noted that this also applies to all-breed clubs. However, sweepstakes are not required for every breed when the sweepstakes are offered by a specialty club as part of a supported entry or specialty held in conjunction with the group or all-breed club. The current rule provides for a form, which is no longer used. Johnny proposed an amendment outlined the online application process; however, since that is subject to change, it was agreed to remove the

process from the Rule and require the club to apply for Sweepstakes. **Upon motion by Cindy Stansell, seconded by Johnny Shoemaker, it was unanimously voted to request Board approval of a revision to Chapter 2, Section 10, replacing the entire section with the following:**

*SECTION 10. A specialty club that wishes to hold a futurity or sweepstakes, either in conjunction with a show or as a separate event, must apply to The American Kennel Club for permission to hold the event.*

**Item 7 – Ch. 10, Secs. 2, 5 and Ch. 15, Sec. 1**

Robert Schroll, chair of the subcommittee working on these sections, reported that the language needs to be cleaned up in at least six other chapters and 47 other sections, noting it was not unlike the Italics subcommittee's work in that it impacts almost every rule. Robert described some of the inconsistencies which need to be addressed. Cindy Stansell discussed an issue with the inability to excuse a visibly ill dog in the ring, noting that a rule change needs to be made to address this situation. She felt that the Rule should allow the judge to excuse for lack of condition to compete. Tim Thomas pointed out that that Ch. 7, Sec. 16 can be used in a situation similar to the one Cindy Stansell discussed. Cindy asked Gina how many protests are filed per year, and Gina will provide us with those statistics. **It was agreed that the subcommittee should be expanded to include some members of the Canine Health Committee, and that Eddie Dziuk and Joellen Gregory, DVM, will be invited.** Some of the issues to be addressed are (1) who can make protests – Event Committee, exhibitors, handlers – make it uniform; (2) Secretary or Superintendent vs. Show Committee; (3) how to handle when a Veterinarian is on call (4) how do you get form signed and returned. **Cindy Miller confirmed that we would wait for feedback from staff on the number of protests that occurred in all venues for health-related issues** and she will request Coordinating Committee approval for a joint subcommittee with Canine Health Committee to review all the veterinary sections in the Rules. Tom Davies raised the issue of who is responsible for payment of the veterinarian's charges – the exhibitor, handler, club and under what conditions. If a protest is initiated, it is the person initiating the protest, or the exhibitor or handler? There was some discussion about the Rhode Island regulation requiring a veterinarian to examine every dog coming into the dog. It was noted that this is not a new regulation, but is one that is now being enforced. They are trying to make it easier and more realistic. The regulation requires the veterinarian needs to see every animal, but they are trying to revise the regulations and work with the show chairman. Robert Schroll noted that the italicized sentence in Ch. 15, Sec. 1 should become part of the Rule. **The subcommittee was requested to have language prior to the June meeting.**

**Ch. 11, Sec. 8A**

Cindy Miller noted that a delegate had suggested that this amendment be sent back to the Dog Show Rules Committee for revision. This amendment did not come from the Committee, but came from the Board, and therefore it should return to the Board for revision.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Flynn, Secretary

The Minutes below were approved by the **Parent Club Committee 6-16-20**.  
Connie Butherus: Acting Secretary for the 3-9-20 Meeting

Regular Meeting of the PARENT CLUB COMMITTEE March 9, 2020 - Doubletree Hotel, Newark, NJ

**Attendees (Signature sheet on file):**

Anne Bowes	Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America
Karen Burgess	Greater Clark County Kennel Club, Inc.
Connie Butherus	Afghan Hound Club of America
Don James	Leonberger Club of America
Alan Kalter	American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.
Peter Piusz	American Rottweiler Club
Helen Prince	Scottish Terrier Club of America
Larry Sorenson	Dachshund Club of America, Inc.

**Also Present:**

Howard Tatro	AKC Board Liaison
Ann Wallin	AKC Board Liaison
Mari-Beth O'Neill	AKC Staff Liaison
Charles Garvin	AKC Board
Karolynne McAteer	AKC Board
Thomas Powers	AKC Board
Sheila Goffe	AKC Staff
Tim Thomas	AKC Staff

**Guests:**

Wanda Allen	Saratoga New York Kennel Club
Carl Ashby	United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club Inc.
Jeffery Ball	Ramapo Kennel Club
Carmen Battaglia	German Shepherd Dog Club of America
Roberta Berman	American Manchester Terrier Club
Robert Brown	Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.
Mary Grace Buckwalter	Belgian Sheepdog Club of America
John Buddie	Collie Club of America, Inc.
Robin Burmeister	Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.
Dean Burrell	Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.
Marge Calltharp	Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.
Katie Campbell	Basenji Club of America, Inc.
Jacqueline Carswell	Berger Picard Club of America
Alyson Casper	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
Connie Clark	American Fox Terrier Club
Bryan Comsky	Chicago Collie Club

Nancy Coombs	Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America
Whitney Coombs	Catoctin Kennel Club
John Connell	Champlain Valley Kennel Club
Catherine Cooper	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.
Marilyn Currey	American Chinese Crested Club of America, Inc.
Daniel Dahlburg	Manatee Kennel Club
Linda Deutsch	Plainfield Kennel Club
Judy Descutner	Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association
Margaret DiCorleto	Chow Chow Club, Inc.
Karen Dewey	Woodstock Dog Club
Robert Eisele	Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.
Mary Alice Eschweiler	Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.
Sally Fineburg	Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.
Jacqueline Fogel	Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Inc.
Sandie Friend	Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.
Lynn Garvin	Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.
Donna Gilbert	Greenwich Kennel Club
Gale Golden	Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.
Neal Goodwin	Flat-Coated Retriever Club of America, Inc.
Joellen Gregory	Otterhound Club of America
Kathleen Gregory	Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.
June Guido	Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.
Karen Gunzel	Trenton Kennel Club, Inc.
Ellen Hardin	Golden Retriever Club of America
Kimberly Van Hemert	Lackawanna Kennel Club
David Harsch	Cape Cod Kennel Club, Inc.
Lucy Heyman	Bedlington Terrier Club of America
Jean Highlands	Great Dane Club of America, Inc.
Prudence Hlatky	Borzoi Club of America, Inc.
Barry Hoovis	Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.
Ann Hubbard	French Bulldog Club of America
Leah James	Duluth Kennel Club
Leslie Jaseph	Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland
Carol Lynn Johnson	Grand Rapids Kennel Club
Sheila Kenyon	Old English Sheepdog Club of America
Jean Kessler	Norwich Terrier Club of America
Pat Kronomeyer	Guest
Patte Klecan	American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.

Stacey LaForge	Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.
Karen Lee	American Whippet Club, Inc.
Jo Lynn	Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America
Anna Margolies	Ladies Dog Club
Laurie Maulucci	South Windsor Kennel Club
Cindy Miller	Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.
Harvey Mohrenweiser	Standard Schnauzer Club of America
Aletta Moore	Airedale Terrier Club of America
Link Newcomb	Pacific Coast Bulldog Club, Inc.
Bob Newcomb	Bulldog Club of America
Jeannette Nieder	Merrimack Valley Kennel Club, Inc.
Mary Lou Olszewski	American Bloodhound Club
Patricia Peel	Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc
James Phinizy	Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.
Marilyn Piusz	Hungarian Pumi Club of America
Chris Reed	Giant Schnauzer Club of America
Diane Reid	Briard Club of America
Richard Rohrbacher	Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.
John Ronald	Samoyed Club of America, Inc.
Kathleen Ronald	Battle Creek Kennel Club, Inc.
Barry Rose	Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club
Richard Rosenthal	Kuvasz Club of America
Joyce Rowland	Australian Cattle Dog Club of America
Norma Ryan	Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America
Carol Shields	American Belgian Malinois Club
Susan Sholar	Black Russian Terrier Club of America
Cindy Stansell	Finnish Spitz Club of America
Sharon Steckler	American Boxer Club, Inc.
Frances Stephens	Puyallup Valley Kennel Club, Inc.
Maggi Strouse	National Shiba Club of America
Richard Su	Keeshond Club of America
Anne Testoni	Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.
William Tottenham	Roanoke Kennel Club, Inc.
Barbara Visinski	German Pinscher Club of America
Marile Waterstraat	Huntington Kennel Club
Lori Webster	Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.
Kathleen Whitaker	Greyhound Club of America
Jane Wilkinson	Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.

Carole Wilson Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.  
Peggy Wolfe United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club  
Michael Zarlenga American Water Spaniel Club

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 AM with Peter Piusz presiding.

Committee members and liaisons introduced themselves.

Minutes: The Minutes of the December 12, 2019 were previously distributed electronically to the Committee members.

Motion to approve: Anne Bowes

Second: Karen Burgess

Minutes approved.

**Parent Club e-lists-** Peter has made the conversion of these lists (Parent Club Delegate and Parent Club Conference) to a Google Group. All Parent Club Delegates are included. If a Parent Club Delegate does not wish to be included, please notify Peter.

The Parent Club Rescue list will also be updated. Mari-Beth O'Neill will supply additional contacts to be included in the Parent Club Delegates group.

An email will be sent out to all Parent Clubs to notify them of the existence of these lists and how to join.

**Dock and Crop-** The group will meet at 1:30 PM. As Peter will be attending the Coordinating Committee meeting, Marilyn Piusz will Chair the meeting which will address pending legislation in New York State.

**Legislative Matters-** Sheila Goffe reviewed legislative matters that are being monitored by the AKC. Currently 2300 separate bills are being monitored and 450 additional regulations. These include:

Mandatory temperature restrictions in the housing environment of dogs which would prohibit temperatures below 32° (F) or above 90°(F). This could have negative effects for some breeds, eg Sled Dogs; Breeding limitations regarding the number of times a bitch can be bred; Third Party lawsuits; Retail sales of purebred dogs; Service Dogs: and Animal Cruelty "inhumane breeders" e.g. Working Dogs, Hunting Dogs. Federal Animal Welfare Act regarding the importation of dogs including the positive identification of the dogs, health issues and the potential public health threat. NAIA is also monitoring this. The importance of becoming involved with one's legislative representatives was stressed. The availability of AKC PAC funds to supports specific representatives was addressed. There are now four field staff assigned. They are not lobbyists but rather valuable resources. Helen Prince noted that in the State of Maryland there is a pending bill that would add a 5% tax to Veterinary bills.

**Parent Club Health Statements-** Peter reviewed the status of the health statements submitted by the Parent Clubs. The statement must:

Be on the Parent Club letterhead; state the approval of the Parent Club Board of Directors; have the

electronic signature including the name of the person and position held in the Parent Club, email address of the contact person should questions arise; and the date.

This information will be used in the AKC Bred with Heart program. All testing identified as required or recommended for breeding purposes will be included in the AKC Bred with Heart Program. Tests noted as optional will not be included in this program. These provisions were

reviewed and approved by the AKC Staff and the Delegates Parent Club Committee 9-30-2019.

If your Parent Club has submitted a revision and it is not posted, please contact Peter or Mari-Beth O'Neill.

**Pet Disaster Trailers-** There are currently 86 trailers in 29 States according to the report from Tom Sharp of AKC Reunite.

**Campaign to get More Parent Clubs as Member Clubs-** Mari-Beth reported on the Sub-Committee working of this project. The Cesky Terrier Club has submitted a request to become a Member Club. This will be addressed at the June AKC Board of Directors meeting.

**Veterinary Outreach-** The events and activities of the outreach program were reviewed by Mari-Beth. Noted were the following:

Six Lunch and Learn events have been held in 2020 with 7 additional ones scheduled in the upcoming months; Appreciation given to the volunteers who serve as AKC Ambassadors and give presentations at the Veterinary Schools; A Mini Meet the Breeds was held at the NCSU

Veterinary School in February and had 14 breeds participating. The event was coordinated by Guy Fisher of the AKC and the Theriogenology Club; The Dog Show Tour at the Beverly Hills show was held for both pre veterinary as well as veterinary students. Dennis Sprung spoke to the students in addition to representatives of the AKC CHF and AKC staff. A similar event is planned for the upcoming Raleigh K.C. Show; and Veterinary Scholarship Applications are due April 1, 2020. There is \$35,000 available to be awarded.

**Junior Showmanship-** Applications for the new Companion Events, Performance Events and Scholarship awards are being received. They will be reviewed and awarded by the end of the month Mari-Beth reported. In 2019 there was an increase of 15% in Juniors participation. Factors contributing to this include, outreach to 4-H youth, participation in CGC, Trick Dog and Companion Events. The local clubs including Juniors was also noted as having contributed to the increase.

**Breed Sustainability Committee-** Alan Kalter reported that the Committee has merged into the Parent Club Breeders Committee. He thanked Florence Dugan and those who initiated the group. A report will be issued.

**Specialty Show Site Committee-** Helen Prince reported that she is working with Guy Fisher on this project. She hopes to have a report in June.

**Code of Ethics-** Connie Butherus reported that a trial of the form to be used has yielded 6 responses. The most commonly cited standards were reviewed. A motion to go forward with this project was approved by unanimous consensus. There was discussion as to the best way to go forward with the survey.

**Best Practices for Parent Clubs-** Don James reported on the status of this group which met yesterday. He hopes to involve representatives of differing membership sized Parent Clubs. Points (standards) to be investigated were noted.

**Reaching Out to Fanciers in Need-** This group is a joint project with the Delegate Parent Club Committee and the All-Breed Committee. Maggi Strouse reported on the goals of the group and factors to be considered should one's dogs be in need of care, such as the importance of having emergency contacts. A survey will go out in June to the clubs.

**Parent Club Breeders Committee-** Anne Bowes, Chair, reviewed the status of this newly formed group which has over 550 years of collective experience. At the second meeting of the group yesterday, the following occurred:

The Mission Statement was approved;

Educational materials available from the AKC were noted; The Facebook page, AKC Dog Breeders Education Network is available. Delegates were urged to join; The importance of mentoring by master breeds of newcomers and Juniors.

A survey of all Parent Clubs regarding their mentoring programs was sent out. As few clubs responded Helen Prince has the survey forms to distribute to the Parent Club Delegates at the Conclusion of the meeting.

A way to identify Parent Club approved mentors was discussed. Mark Dunn is willing to produce a lapel pin to be worn by these individuals. The Parent Club Committee will send a request to him regarding providing a lapel pin.

Katie Campbell discussed a project to capture the knowledge of legacy/master breeders and having it available as a mentoring tool; and Peter thanked Karen Dorn of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club for the distribution of their survey.

Local Breed Clubs becoming AKC Member Clubs. This is an Agenda item for the Delegate Meeting. It will be read with a vote to be taken at the June meeting. Peter reviewed a letter that he and Pat Laurans previously sent to Parent Club Delegates regarding this proposal. Since 1947 local breed clubs have not been admitted as AKC Member Clubs. However recently AKC Club Relations has indicated that these local breed clubs can go through the process to become AKC Member Clubs. At the September 2019 Parent Club Committee meeting the Committee voted unanimously to oppose this action and asked the AKC Board of Directors to close this loophole. This has not happened. Thus, the Mid-Atlantic Leonberger Club of Virginia has proceeded to seek AKC Member Club status.

There was extensive discussion regarding this proposal. It was noted that this matter is a Bylaws issue. However, the Bylaws Committee has declined to address it. Noted repeatedly was the divisive nature of having both the National Parent Club and local breed clubs as Member Clubs. The organizational and functional differences between these two groups, one National in scope and the other local, were stressed.

Charles Garvin noted that the application from the Mid-Atlantic Leonberger Club of Virginia must be reviewed by the Board.

Mari-Beth O'Neill noted that it is only the Parent Club that can vote on the Breed Standard.

A straw poll voted was taken- "All in favor of allowing local breed clubs to become AKC Member Clubs?" "The vote was zero in favor.

The Parent Club Committee will send a letter to the AKC Board of Directors stating their extremely strong opposition to this proposal.

Vote on an Event Committee's Ability to DQ a Dog w/o Injury having occurred- Peter opened the discussion on this proposal which is scheduled to be voted upon at the Delegate's meeting. It was reported that a new form is being developed to be used by an Event Committee when holding a hearing on this. Numerous Delegates voiced their opposition to this proposal citing specific reasons this could be misused or misinterpreted. Mitigating factors must be considered in determining if the dog in question poses a hazard. It was noted that this additional information needs to be made available to the Delegates.

Motion to Adjourn: Anne Bowes

Second: Connie Butherus

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted;

Connie Butherus

Acting Secretary

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
Delegates Meeting  
MARCH 10, 2020

Dennis Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Sprung: Will everyone please stand for the National Anthem.  
(National Anthem played)

Mr. Sprung: If there is any Delegate present who has not given his or her name to one of the computer operators at the registration desk outside this meeting room, please be sure to do so before leaving so you will be marked as present.

The Chair would like to introduce the persons seated with me on the dais. On my immediate left is the Chairman, William J. Feeney. To his left is the Vice Chair, Patricia M. Cruz. On my right is Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian. To her right is Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary. And to Ms. DiNardo's right is Todd DeSimone, the Court Reporter.

Today is the annual election of Directors. The Executive Secretary will now read the report of the Nominating Committee, and the report on additional nominations.

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the Nominating Committee:

**Mrs. Anne H. Bowes**, Chair, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America

**Ms. Constance Butherus**, Afghan Hound Club of America

**Ms. Sally Fineburg**, Hatboro Dog Club

**Dr. Geno Sisneros**, American Pomeranian Club

**Ms. Marilyn Vinson**, Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2019 meeting, has nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next annual

meeting of the Club on March 10, 2020. There is one vacancy for the Class of 2021 and three for the Class of 2024.

**CLASS OF 2021**

**Dr. Thomas M. Davies** – Springfield Kennel Club

**CLASS OF 2024**

**Jeffrey D. Ball** – Ramapo Kennel Club

**Dr. Michael Knight** – Texas Kennel Club

**Karolynne M. McAteer** – Irish Setter Club of America

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegates have been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2024, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 10, 2020:

**Carl C. Ashby III** – United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

**Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia** – German Shepherd Dog Club of America

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws provide that no nominations may be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2019. As no additional nominations may be made, and the Bylaws make no provision for write-in candidates, without objection, we will follow the same procedure used in every previous instance where there was an uncontested election. I will ask the Executive Secretary to cast one ballot for the single member of the Class of 2021.

Hearing no objection, I ask the Executive Secretary to cast one ballot.

Ms. DiNardo: I cast one ballot for Dr. Thomas M. Davies for the Class of 2021.

Mr. Sprung: The Chair, without objection declares that Dr. Thomas M. Davies has been elected to the Class of 2021.

Delegates are reminded that elections, in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, require a majority vote to elect. There are three vacancies for the Class of 2024 to be filled today.

If more than three candidates receive a majority vote, the three receiving the highest number of votes are elected. If less than three candidates receive a majority vote, the candidates receiving a majority vote are elected, and the other candidates remain on the ballot for the necessary repeat balloting.

Vote for no more than three. Only one vote per candidate will be counted. A totally blank ballot is not counted towards the majority. A ballot with more than three votes is invalid; but does count towards the majority. In order to facilitate the tabulation of ballots, we ask that you only fold your ballots in half.

After the results of each ballot are reported, the Chair will give ample time and opportunity for any candidate who wishes to withdraw to do so.

As is our practice, the election procedure will be overseen by our accounting firm, KPMG. The ballots will be scanned and tabulated electronically. Once you have voted, please return to your seat so that we can proceed with the meeting. All candidates have been offered the opportunity to observe the election procedures.

After it appears that everyone present has voted, the Chair will inquire as to whether anyone who wishes to vote has done so, and the polls will then be declared closed.

Additional ballots, if necessary, will be cast during the meeting. Delegates are reminded that there are six polling stations along the back wall. Please line up by your last name. Give your last name and club name to the Teller.

The staff will now distribute the ballots. The polls are open.

[Recess for Voting]  
[Session Resumes]

Mr. Sprung: Is there anyone who wishes to vote who has not done so?

Hearing none, the Chair declares the polls closed. We will now continue with the meeting.

The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Ms. DiNardo: These are the Delegates seated since the last meeting:

**Kristina M. DeLisi**, Runnells, Iowa, to represent Central Iowa Kennel Club

**Karen L. Dewey**, Newport, New Hampshire, to represent Woodstock Dog Club

**Glen J. Lajeski**, Cloverdale, California, to represent Doberman Pinscher Club of America

**Jolyne K. Lea**, LA Center, Washington, to represent Vancouver Kennel Club

**Arna B. Margolies**, Needham, Massachusetts, to represent Ladies' Dog Club

**Judy F. Murray**, Baldwinsville, New York, to represent Onondaga Kennel Association

**Diane Reid**, New York, New York, to represent Briard Club of America

**Jack G. Smith**, Fallbrook, California, to represent Great Western Terrier Association of Southern California

**Dr. Donald Sturz**, Brooklyn, New York, to represent Poodle Club of America

**Janet A. Wolf**, Lexington, KY, to represent Lexington Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval were introduced from the floor:

**Kristina M. DeLisi** to represent Central Iowa Kennel Club

**Judy McMaster Descutner** to represent Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association

**Karen Dewey** to represent Woodstock Dog Club

**Leslie Jaseph** to represent Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland

**Arna B. Margolies** to represent Ladies' Dog Club

**Susan Olsen** to represent Park Shore Kennel Club

**Diane Reid** to represent Briard Club of America

**Dr. Donald Sturz** to represent Poodle Club of America

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, and a sincere welcome to all of the new Delegates.

The minutes of the December 13, 2019, Delegates meeting were published in the online January 2020 *AKC GAZETTE* and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegates Portal on AKC's website. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as published.

Hearing no corrections, the minutes stand approved.

The Chairman's Report will appear on the Delegate's Portal as follows:

For the past eight years, I have been fortunate to serve on the Board of this great American Kennel Club, the world's strongest and most effective champion for purebred dogs and our sport. It has been a privilege to play a role in the advancement of AKC's mission and to be a part of so many changes that have been put in place to support and improve what we do for our dogs and those, like us, who love them each and every day.

Thanks to the hard work of management and staff, the good sense of our Board of Directors, and input from the Delegate body, the American Kennel Club is stronger and better than ever before.

Registrations are the core of our business and represent the underpinning of our sport. Several years ago, a sustained drop in registrations of litters and dogs was a pressing and primary concern.

Today, thanks to enhanced customer service, technology improvements and breeder recruitment, AKC has turned the tide. We have enjoyed more than six years of consecutive, annual increases in litter registrations, and expansion by twenty percent across the board.

We are embracing breeders as never before. Our Breeder Development Outreach department educates breeders of all kinds about the value of AKC registration and welcomes those who want to join us in producing quality purebred dogs for new owners everywhere.

Our Investigations and Inspections department seeks opportunities to educate breeders to achieve improvements in all areas of canine care and conditions.

Overall, we stand united in our commitment to responsible breeding. The Breeder of Merit and Bred with Heart programs were conceived to set responsible breeders apart and guide the public toward quality sources of purpose-bred dogs. All these efforts have played an important role in the growth of litter registrations and unique breeders in recent years.

Equally crucial with the development of our breeder base is the cultivation of a loyal audience of purebred dog owners. In a globalized world fueled by social media, doors to new adventures are always opening to people of all ages, and the AKC has become a destination. Our social media engages the public with a wealth of regularly posted, targeted information and newsletters.

Our entry into digital media with our own TV channel, AKC.TV, has allowed us to deliver the world of purebred dogs right into living rooms at any time of day or night. Dog lovers are coming to know the AKC as a trusted resource, a leading authority, and a stellar content provider. We know we are succeeding as we are seeing higher rates of registration and more engagement with AKC dog owners than ever before.

As well, we are experiencing increased participation in our sports. Last year brought us over 3 million entries in our events, the highest total entries in history! Thanks to the development of Grand Championships and the National Owner-Handled Series, and our deepening involvement with Juniors and young members of the 4-H community, we have provided more opportunities and reasons for exhibitors to stay in the game, enjoying the events they love.

Other notable additions include the introduction of the 4 to 6 month puppy classes, the Puppy of Achievement program, and FSS Open Shows; the launch of new activities such as Fast CAT, Scent Work, Farm Dog Certified, and the Title Recognition Program which includes exciting sports like flyball, dock diving and disc dogs.

We developed the Family Dog Program to highlight the talents and potential of our companion animals, and with it we added a wide range of new skills tests to the venerable AKC Canine Good Citizen Program including Advanced, Urban, Fit Dog, Therapy dogs, temperament testing, and the highly popular Trick Dog program. With the help of our newly established Club Development Department, many conformation clubs have embraced these new programs right along with us, and the results are quite encouraging.

Within the past eight years, we have also made a strong commitment to continuing education. We have made it our duty to bring young people closer to purebred dogs with a more active Public Education department that has launched more than sixteen programs. We have reached thousands of children and their teachers in classrooms all

over the country by offering unique resources that simultaneously educate and entertain children's natural interests in dogs. A recent success has been our mobile app, AKC Math Agility, to reach the newest generation of purebred dog lovers.

Important changes to the judges' approval process were put into effect to enhance quality judging. Our Canine College judges' education platform has served more than 22,000 learners with 550 courses and exams to date. So far, more than 45 breed-specific courses have been created to provide additional resources for prospective and current judges.

Protecting the rights of purebred dog fanciers has remained a high priority. We have doubled the size of the Government Relations department, adding legislative analysts and community outreach coordinators to help breeders and owners take a proactive stance on canine policy where they live. The department now provides welcome expert canine advice to legislators, regulators and industries.

We have expanded our outreach to lawmakers through legislative conferences, workshops and events around the country, and are addressing a wider variety of canine issues than ever before. More than eight years ago, the department had its hands full with breed specific legislation, mandatory spay/neuter and breeder licensing laws.

Today, we are tackling many more sophisticated measures including anti-breeder legislation, importation and public health regulations, the shortage of detection dogs, and the issues surrounding service dogs. The department tracks approximately 450 regulations per year and regularly provides expert comment for administrative rules at the state and federal level. Our breeders and our sport deserve this proactive work to ensure that our rights to breed, own and compete with purebred dogs remain intact indefinitely.

As a leader in our global community of dog lovers, we are building bridges beyond our borders to share knowledge and experience with our peers overseas through programs like AKC Global Service, and to find unity in protecting the future of purebred dogs and our sport at our upcoming international conference for kennel clubs.

It hardly seems possible that so many changes have been implemented in the span of eight years. Innovations at all levels, revitalization of customer service, and an unfettered commitment to our mission have brought about the improvements that we are enjoying today. AKC's reputation is growing ever stronger and our public perception index is higher than ever, as evidenced by a thirty-nine percent increase in press coverage since 2012, and a media audience approaching 52 billion views!

Just the other day, on my flight to this meeting, a flight attendant asked me what I was on my way to doing. I asked her if she knew of the American Kennel Club. She responded, "Aren't they the people who protect dogs?"

We have all—Delegates, staff, and Board—played a role in this evolution of the AKC and should be proud of what we have accomplished together. It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside all of you at this time in the history of the American Kennel Club. I know the best is yet to come. Believe me when I say it, the AKC rocks!

Mr. Sprung: Next on the agenda is the President's report.

I would like to thank everyone for your contributions that led to numerous 2019 accomplishments. Staff's three primary goals resulted in litters being up five years in a row. The current increase is 3 percent. Individual registrations are in the plus column for six consecutive years, up over 1 percent. Secondly, the number of unique breeders grew by 5 percent, or 7,000, and furthermore aggregate entries are the highest ever at 3,310,000 plus, having grown by more than 67,000. Beyond those primary initiatives, in

Orlando, at America's National Championship, there were 11,008 entries, making that the largest event in AKC's history. Highlights include 5,284 in the regular classes, 1,382 in stakes, 1,148 in bred-by, 791 in NOHS, and over 1,000 in dock diving, plus 408 juniors. Overall within our sports, agility and obedience are trailing, while other areas have achieved credible gains. These increases include hunt tests, plus 14,000 entries, rally up 18,000, fast cat grew by 28,000, and scent work increased by 52,000.

In other business areas, AKC.org is visited by more than 8 million unique people monthly. Instagram has gained 12 percent, and e-commerce expanded by 10 percent. Marketplace saw an increase of 18 percent in litters to over 53,000 and 12 percent in the number of breeders to 31,675. In summary, last year was positive beyond registration, unique breeders and entry growth. Achievements were significant for AKC.TV, our branding, government relations and marketing. There is more to accomplish for the well-being of dogs and we are well on our way towards achieving this as we work in collaboration with our Board, clubs and Delegates. Once again, we thank you for your contributions to the many successes we experienced last year.

Words of gratitude to two people who have contributed a great deal over decades to our organization. Bill Feeney, a truly kind man, long-time Delegate and Golden Retriever aficionado is completing his tenure as Chairman of the Board of Directors, a gentle, learned man with the ability to crystallize issues and offer wise, achievable, informed recommendations. He has been at the helm of the organization for the past year and led us through a period of growth and expansion in registration, entries and innovation. Bill has been shining a light of optimism and support. He leads by example, asking the hard questions and making tough decisions for the benefit of our dogs. On behalf of the Board, Delegates, Management and Staff, I thank you, Bill, for your service to AKC. I know we will continue to see you making an impact around the rings and amongst this body as a voice for progress in our sports. AKC rocks because Bill rocks.

Patricia Cruz is completing her tour as the Vice Chair of our Board. It is no exaggeration to say that Pat has done everything in and for our sports and there is little doubt that she will continue to give back because she just can't stop. An Afghan Hound breeder/owner/handler, Executive Field rep, judge, Delegate, sportswriter, steward and even a diplomate for AKC, when in the 1970s Bill Schmidt sent her to Mexico to earn her all breed judge's license on behalf of the Executive Field staff. Pat has represented us in many diverse and important ways. We can't thank you enough for your dedication to purebred dogs and your unwavering support of clubs, Delegates and Staff throughout these past many years. Thank you both for your unconditional love of dogs and AKC.

Mr. Sprung: The Chair calls on Peter Rohslau for the Financial Report.

Mr. Rohslau: Good morning everyone! Thank you for coming this morning and we appreciate your time attending to AKC matters. I am glad to provide you with our performance report and unaudited financial results for the 2019 fiscal year.

Let's begin with a view of AKC's Registration Volumes and year over year performance. Our litter volume increased by 3%, with a total annual volume of 258,000 in 2019. Our dog registrations also rose by 1% for the year, reaching 588,000. This marks the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increasing volumes. We have now reached the highest volume over the last decade. This is an impressive accomplishment and thanks are owed to the entire Delegate Body, our Board of Directors, Breeders, Management and staff! Congratulations and we look forward to more success in the future.

Next we highlight the growth experienced in AKC Sports and Events program in 2019. Our clubs produced over 22,700 sanctioned licensed and Member events throughout the year! This was an increase of approximately 5% over 2018. Our total entries in 2019 reached a height of 3.3 million which represents an overall increase

of 2% compared to 2018 and is the highest volume in the history of the AKC. Once again, congratulations are in order to all of you and everyone involved in making this happen. We really appreciate the hard work and energy that was put forth to reach this goal.

Now let's move to the AKC's financial performance. Here we present an unconsolidated summary of AKC's Operating revenues and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2019 along with a comparison to the prior year. Overall, the results were positive as we increased revenue by 4.4%, while expenses only increased 3.8%. This resulted in an improved operating income of \$663,000. Additionally, please note there were a few unbudgeted adjustments that were not a part of our standard AKC operations in 2019. We made \$2.9 million in charitable donations to AKC 501(c)3 affiliates, in excess of our standard donations. In addition, we paid \$480,000 in unrelated business income taxes.

To delve into the numbers in more detail, let's take a deeper look at the reasons for our increase in revenue. Our overall revenue increased \$3.4 million, which represents a 4.5% increase over 2018. Our registration business was the biggest source of this increase with registration services growing just under \$1.5 million. All facets of registration increased with dogs, litters, pedigrees & other services all generating growth. Our other major program, Sports & Events, also showed healthy growth of \$677,000, or more than 4%. This is representative of the data shown earlier in the slide that presented solid growth both events and entries. In addition to the growth in our traditional business of registration and sports & events, our other programs also did well. In particular, our digital media activities, which include AKC.tv and digital advertising increased by more than \$1 million. We are very pleased with all of these areas performing well and providing growth to our organization.

Next let's look into our operating expenses. Our largest increase was for payroll and benefits which was mostly attributable to cost of living increases and growing benefit costs. The increase in rent and related

costs is attributable to our residing a full year in our new location which now house many of our newer programs, such as our digital media activities. Depreciation and amortization increased from recent investments in software and other fixed assets, which were made to create operating efficiencies and to ensure a productive workforce. Aside from these first 3 items, all other expenses actually decreased by almost 16%, or \$340,000. While we strive to keep our operating costs down, we are satisfied with this increase as our revenues grew more than our costs. We believe this is proof that our investment in staff and assets paid off as our revenue growth exceeded our increase in expenses. To address another important expense, as required by the AKC bylaws, we can report that the total amount of Board of Directors' related expenses in fiscal 2019 was \$486,000 dollars.

Outside of AKC's operations, next we will take an overview of our investment performance. In 2019, we had a very different result from 2018. While 2018 was a poor year for our investment performance, we more than made up for it in 2019. AKC's investment activities generated almost \$15 million in gains in 2019 which was an impressive return just under 19%. As compared to our benchmark, we outperformed our target by more than 2%. Overall, we are very happy with this result. I would like to remind everyone that we do take a long-term focus and vision in our portfolio's goals and allocations. We try to diversify our investments to minimize risk, but we are subject to the market movements just like most others. While we are closely watching the recent weakness the global equity markets in recent weeks, we are sticking to our long-term strategy.

Moving on to our balance sheet, we next take a look at AKC's assets which ended 2019 with a balance of \$126 million dollars. The decrease from the prior year is mostly attributable to the AKC paying down all of its short-term debt, the write down of affiliate assets, along with a significant increase cash outflows related to our pension and other post-retirement costs. As explained last year, the short-term debt was acquired in 2018 in relation to the construction of the AKC's

headquarters along with the Museum of the Dog at 101 Park Avenue. In light of the strong performance of AKC's investment portfolio in 2019, it was decided to cash in a portion of our investments and eliminate our debt and to cover other cash outflows.

Next, on the other side of the balance sheet are total liabilities. Total liabilities have decreased significantly from \$106 million at the end of 2018 to \$85 million at December 31, 2019. As previously mentioned, the primary driver of the decrease in liabilities was the pay down \$23 million of short-term debt. In addition, our accounts payable and accrued expenses decreased by approximately \$4 million, while our pension and post-retirement obligations increased by approximately \$5 million. Overall, this shows that the AKC ended 2019 with a strong balance sheet and is well positioned to handle any unforeseen contingencies while continuing to support our mission.

In review, 2019 was a good year for The American Kennel Club. We celebrated our 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 while experiencing solid growth in both our traditional programs while also making strong gains into new programs that we expect will continue to make AKC a vital organization for many more years to come. We are confident that together, we can continue our success into 2020 and beyond. I thank you for your time here today, as well as everything you do all year long to make AKC the strong institution it is. As a last point, please note that this full presentation deck will be posted to the AKC Delegates Portal by the close of business tomorrow. Thank you and have a great day.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you Peter.

Today's first vote is on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 9, Section 2** – Superintendents and Show Secretaries, which would allow for an individual to be approved as a Show Secretary for the events held by one all-breed or group club and any additional events held on the same day and at the same site as the club, once in any calendar year. This amendment was presented by Staff to the AKC

Board based on a request by a member of the Board of Directors and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

The question is on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 9, Section 2* – Superintendents and Show Secretaries. Is there any discussion?

Those in favor, please stand. Thank you, be seated.

Those opposed, please stand. Thank you, be seated.

There are two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment is adopted.

The next vote is on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 8-A* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which removes the requirement for an injury to have occurred for an Event Committee to disqualify a dog that has attacked a person or a dog at its event, presenting a hazard to persons or other dogs. The amendment was proposed by the Staff, supported and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors. This vote was postponed at the December 2019 meeting to allow for questions to be addressed by Staff regarding this amendment.

The question is on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 8-A* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility. Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognized Peter Piusz, Delegate for the American Rottweiler Club, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Piusz: Peter Piusz, American Rottweiler Club. In light of the fact that there are changes that have been made that the Delegates have not seen, shouldn't this be pulled instead of being voted on?

Mr. Sprung: What changes are you referring to, Sir?

Mr. Piusz: There is a form for disqualification which has much more detail that has not been seen. Further, it was stated that there are changes to the processes which the Delegates have not seen.

Mr. Sprung: Is there a second?

Unidentified Delegate: Second.

Mr. Sprung: Is there further discussion on the floor to postpone to this to the June meeting?

The Chair recognized Jeannette O'Hanlon, Delegate for the Staffordshire Terrier Club of America, who spoke as follows:

Ms. O'Hanlon: Jeannette O'Hanlon, Staffordshire Terrier Club of America. I second Peter's motion that this go back and so the Delegates can be informed on how this is going to work. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Is there further discussion on the motion which has been seconded?

The Chair recognized Felice Jarrold, Delegate for the Old Pueblo Dog Training Club, who spoke as follows:

Ms. Jarrold: Felice Jarrold, Old Pueblo Dog Training Club. I wanted to speak in favor of the motion. Is that appropriate at this time?

Mr. Sprung: Absolutely. It is a discussion – well, if you are speaking on the motion that's on the floor –

Ms. Jarrold: No. So, I bow.

Mr. Sprung: Sir?

The Chair recognized James Phinizy, Delegate for the Scottish Deerhound Club of America, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Phinizy: James Phinizy, Scottish Deerhound Club of America. The question of the motion is, parliamentary inquiry, is this an indefinite postponement or is there to a specific time or is it to be tabled?

Mr. Sprung: Yes, a specific time, to the next meeting, which would be June 2020. Are you speaking on the motion?

The Chair recognized Ann Lettis, Delegate for the Grand River Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Ms. Lettis: Ann Lettis, Grand River Kennel Club. Yes, I agree with the motion and I think that why staff introduced this, the whole process needs to be revisited. Currently if a person is attacked by a dog, there is no requirement for that person to have to make a statement to the AKC, which is wrong. There is also a very short time from the incident to information to the AKC from the person who was attacked. It is an extremely short time, should the person have a severe injury or be hospitalized, there is no time for them to contest the decision of an event committee, and anybody who is going to be involved in the event committee should be told right away how they could contest it, the findings, if they don't agree? They also should be able to see what the event committee sends to the AKC, which currently they can't, yet somebody from another club told me they give everybody a copy of what they send to the AKC. So, there is a little, you know, which way is the right way? And I think everybody would have the right to see what is sent to the AKC. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. Okay, we are going to vote on postponement, which is a simple majority.

All of those in favor, please raise your hands. Thank you.  
All those opposed?

There is a simple majority in favor and the amendment will be postponed to the June 2020 meeting.

We will send out additional information and a copy of the form that was questioned. Thank you.

The third vote is on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 5* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, which eliminates the italics, rewords the section to add language to specify that all equipment must meet AKC requirements, and inserts it into the rule. The change also generalizes the wording for wickets to eliminate the need to modify in the future and clarifies expectation for a number of sets of wickets and scales that must be provided at all-breed, group or specialty shows. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and was brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

The question is on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 5* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards. Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognized Robert Eisele, Delegate for the Suffolk County Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Eisele: Bob Eisele, Suffolk County Kennel Club. My only question is the availability of wickets, because I formed a club and we do a show in a box, so we have to have our own wickets. It took me almost three-quarters of a year to find a place to get it and then when I tried to get the wicket, the person was ill and it took me another six months. I mean, I understand the concept, if there is availability of getting wickets, I agree with it, but if it becomes difficult to get the wicket, I have a problem with that. Has the staff addressed making sure there is a supply of these?

Mr. Sprung: Call me up and I will get you a wicket. Seriously. I know you self-superintend. I know your show, what you do. We will help you. Just give us a call.

Mr. Eisele: Let's hope we get to a thousand. I'm just talking in general.

Mr. Sprung: We will help any club.

The Chair recognized Cindy Stansell, Delegate for the Finnish Spitz Club of America, who spoke as follows:

Ms. Stansell: Cindy Stansell, Finnish Spitz Club of America. The reason Dog Show Rules brought this forward is that there was no consistency in scales, and some of the scales were quite dangerous to use and put the dogs in jeopardy. So, we appreciate that there is now wording there to safely accommodate all weighable breeds. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. We will now vote. Sir?

The Chair recognized Steve Lawrence, Delegate for the Classic Toy Dog Club, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Lawrence: Steve Lawrence, Classic Toy Dog Club. Similar to what Bob Eisele asked, I have looked into trying to find calibrated certified weights and the ones I have been finding are hundreds and hundreds of dollars. Does AKC have any source for these or have them available?

Mr. Sprung: We have sources for them. The answer is yes.

Mr. Lawrence: Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: We will now vote, ladies and gentlemen.

Those in favor, please stand. Thank you, be seated.  
Those opposed, please stand. Thank you, be seated.

There are two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment is adopted.

The last vote is on *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option, Field Trials and Two-Couple Packing Hunting Tests* **Chapter 6, Section 4**, removes the requirement to show the street address in the premium list for the judges, trial chair and club officers. This amendment was proposed by the Beagle Advisory Committee and the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Committee supported this change for all types of field trials. It was brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors. This change also applies to the following:

- *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* (**Chapter 6, Section 4**)
- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures Dachshunds* (**Chapter 6, Section 4**)
- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Basset Hounds* (**Chapter 6, Section 4**)
- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels* (**Chapter 7, Section 1**)
- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* (**Chapter 7, Section 1**)
- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers* (**Chapter 7, Section 1**)

The question is on *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option, Field Trials and Two-Couple Packing Hunting Tests* **Chapter 6, Section 4** as well as the

six other aforementioned Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Beagles Large Pack, Dachshunds, Basset Hounds, Spaniels, Pointing Breeds and Retrievers. Is there any discussion?

Those in favor, please stand. Thank you, be seated.

Those opposed, please stand. Thank you, be seated.

None opposed.

There are two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendments are adopted.

Mr. Sprung: We are going to have report from our tellers. The Chair now calls on the Chair of the Tellers Committee, Ernest Obubah of KPMG, to read the results of the balloting for the Class of 2024.

Mr. Obubah: Good Morning. The number of votes cast was 272. The number of invalid votes cast 1. The number needed to elect, 136. The votes are as follows:

Carl C. Ashby, 69. Jeffrey D. Ball, 104. Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, 152. Dr. Michael Knight, 178. Karolynne M. McAteer, 187.

Mr. Sprung: The chair declares that Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia Dr. Michael Knight and Karolynne McAteer have been elected to the Class of 2024. As there is no further balloting, we will continue with the meeting.

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 3, Section 8-A** – Dog Show Classifications.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 3, Section 8-A – Dog Show Classifications, proposes a new Section 8-A that would create a new class, Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy, to be offered at conformation dog shows at the discretion of the club. This class will provide the opportunity for breeders to exhibit their

puppies in an age appropriate class without risk of sacrificing their opportunity to attain the Bred-by-Exhibitor medallion.

This amendment was proposed by a member of the AKC Board of Directors, presented by Staff and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair recognized Carol Fisher, Delegate for the Valley Forge Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Ms. Fisher: Carol Fisher, Valley Forge Kennel Club. I'm for the proposal but if you have a puppy in bred-by and something happens from when you enter it until the day of the show, your only options, and you cannot show, your only options are to pull your entry or to move to open, and I was wondering if there was any thought given to having the chance for that puppy, the bred-by puppy, to move to a puppy class if the owner wants it and if the class is available. I mean, I don't want a puppy that I enter in a puppy class to be moved.

Mr. Sprung: You mean move to open from bred-by. You cannot move your entry at the day of a show if you are in bred-by or if you are in puppy bred-by.

Ms. Fisher: I thought that was the class that everybody if for whatever reason you moved you could move to open.

Mr. Sprung: Not once entries close. You are asking if there is a consideration to make that change?

Ms. Fisher: I thought you could enter open.

Mr. Sprung: Yes, you could enter open.

Ms. Fisher: Not enter, to move to open.

Mr. Sprung: Yes, you can enter open after entries close. I stand corrected, Johnny.

Ms. Fisher: I was just wondering if there was any thought –

Mr. Sprung: Then that point would not count towards the bred-by-exhibitor medallion from open. So that's the reason to have the bred-by class and to have now what could be two bred-by classes, you could have a six to nine puppy and a nine to twelve puppy as well as bred-by.

Ms. Fisher: I understand what you are saying, and I concur with that. I'm saying if the person chooses to not want to move to open or not to, you know, because at that point you are going to lose your chance for points, for the bred-by points anyway, to have the option to move to a puppy class if the puppy class is available, because then they are experiencing with the puppies and not in with the –

Mr. Sprung: The concept behind this medallion was each point would be from bred-by. So, to enhance the opportunity for people to earn the medallion from bred-by is to vote on now having the two different bred-by puppy classes as well as the regular bred-by class.

Ms. Fisher: I understand. I don't think you are understanding what I'm saying, is if you want to move your puppy, if you want to continue to show it, to give it experience, the only option is to go to open, and sometimes if you have a six-month-old puppy, you don't want to go to open. Your only other option then is to eat your entry.

Mr. Sprung: Or to stay in bred-by.

Ms. Fisher: If the person is not physically able to show, you have the option of not entering, pulling your entry or going to open.

Mr. Sprung: Yes, however the point would not count in open.

Ms. Fisher: I don't want the points to count.

Mr. Sprung: That aspect was not considered. Your example was not considered during discussion.

Ms. Fisher: And I was just wondering if people had thought of that. I'm trying to bring it forward for people to think about for the voting. I'm for the proposal, but I think it should be the option of being able to, if they are not able to show in the bred-by puppy class, to have the option to move it to a regular puppy class if that puppy class is available.

Mr. Sprung: You can make an amendment in June. We did not consider what you are requesting.

Ms. Fisher: Okay. I was just bringing this forward.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Unidentified Delegate: I would just add that this happened last year to me at our national. I was under the bred-by and I had a puppy in it and my back went out and I could not exhibit and she was moved to open but it would have been great for her to have been moved to puppy because she was just a six to nine puppy. I think that is the point she is trying to make.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Katie Campbell, Delegate for the Basenji Club of America, who spoke as follows:

Ms. Campbell: Katie Campbell, Basenji Club of America. I just want to have a pause for thought on this additional puppy bred-by, that there are some special attractions at our all-breed shows and perhaps at other group shows where you have a puppy group and you also have a bred-by group. The rules would have to be delineated for those special attractions or I would suggest it be required on the form for the show when we make the application of exactly how those are defined, because I don't think we should be encouraging a puppy to be competing in potentially the class that they are, like a puppy bred-by and then a puppy group and a bred-by group and a regular group and potentially best in show. It is just too much.

Mr. Sprung: Okay, Thank you.

[Note: The Read on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 3* was inadvertently omitted and will be read at the June 2020 Meeting.]

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 11* – Dog Classifications.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 11* – Dog Classifications, inserts the proposed new Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class into the list of classes from which first place advances to compete in the Winners Class. It adds language to clarify the puppy, 12-18 month class and Bred-by-Exhibitor class may be divided by age. It also inserts language to clarify American-Bred and Open classes are required and all others are optional.

This proposal is contingent on delegate approval of the new Chapter 3, Section 8-A to create the Bred-by Exhibitor Puppy Class. Rejection of the proposed Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class would require amendment to this proposal.

This amendment was proposed by and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 9* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 9* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which replaces current language with generalized language eliminating references to specific communicable diseases so that the revised section would address any health issues or diseases currently being experienced.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 3* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 3* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, which modifies text for additional clarity as to when an entry may or may not be measured, as well as the judge's procedural responsibilities.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 4* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 4* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, which modifies text for additional clarity as to when an entry may or may not be weighed, the judge's procedural responsibilities and the impact on any dog weighed out and associated limitations when weighed out for condition of class.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, modifies text for additional clarity as to obligations concerning disqualifications and conditions of class related to color and markings, the judge’s procedural responsibilities and any impact on the dogs concerning future events.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6-A* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6-A* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, proposes the insertion of a new Section 6-A, which would have the effect of adding language specific to a judge’s authority in classes where the condition of class is other than height, weight, color or markings.

Approval of this proposal by the Delegates would then require approval of the corresponding proposal to Chapter 15, Section 2 to allow for protest by competing exhibitors in the same class.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 15, Section 2** – Protests Against Dogs.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 15, Section 2** – Protests Against Dogs, adds the proposed new Section 6-A to the list of sections where conditions of class are to allow for protest by competing exhibitors in the same class. This proposal is contingent on delegate approval of the insertion of a new **Chapter 14, Section 6-A.**

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on the proposed amendment?

The Chair calls on Vice President Kirsten Bahlke, to give an update on our digital branding campaign.

Kirsten Bahlke: Good morning everyone. My name is Kirsten Bahlke and I am super excited to be able to introduce to you today a brand-

new digital branding campaign for the American Kennel Club. We will actually launch in just two short days and I'm excited to be able to tell you a little bit about it. So, some of you may be saying, okay, branding campaign, but what exactly is that, Kirsten? I want to take a little time explaining to you and then I'm going to show you the good stuff, how we are bringing it to life. Let's take in two pieces a branding campaign. So branding, no, not this kind of branding, I mean our brand. It is all about the American Kennel Club and everything that we do and bringing that to life for consumers who may not be as involved as we want them to be. For the campaign, who are we going to talk to? I don't think it is any surprise that we want to talk to and engage with younger consumers, dog lovers who we want to bring into everything that is AKC, our sports, our training, our knowledge, our education. How will we do it? Again, not so surprising, we need to talk to them digitally, whether it is on their phone, their computer, which is usually a laptop, or an iPad, we need to be there wherever they are, not just thinking about if they were sitting at home. And then finally, what channels will we use? We used to define our channels as okay, I saw them on TV, so am I on FOX, am I on NBC. Our new definition of channels is in this digital world. In this digital world we think of our channels as social, so on the bottom left, you can see on Facebook, so this is where you would see these advertisements. On the top left, music. Today's younger generation all listen to music on their phone, apps like Spotify. We will be there as well. And then finally, this new world of OTT, over the top, these channels, these cord cutters, all these terms where people are watching things on their digital devices, we will be there too, just like AKC.TV. So, once we have identified everything we wanted this branding campaign to be about and how we were going to do it, we really wanted to make sure as a Marketing Department that we understood what are the core objectives for this campaign. First and foremost, how will we increase registration and acquisition of purebred dogs? Second, we want everyone to be interested in everything about AKC, including our sports. How do we make sure we are bringing that younger generation in? Finally, improve the overall perception of our brand. We did some consumer research both to get to this point and then I

will show you about the concepts as well. But one of the things we learned is that younger consumers don't love our brand as much as we do. They see us as a little bit stuffy. So that helped inform what we wanted to do with this campaign. Working with our digital agency, Media Cause, we came up with multiple ideas and then settled on one and it became a really great, winning idea, and I'm not just selfishly saying that, we put it out to consumers to tell us do you think this is a winning idea. We did market research with this concept for AKC and we found consumers told us it was extremely likable, very believable for the American Kennel Club, and made us feel very relevant to them. Overall, they had an improved perception of the American Kennel Club, exactly what we want. And, importantly, the numbers were even stronger with the 18 to 44-year-old group as well as prospective dog owners. So, we felt like we really had a winner. Now what I want to do is read to you what I call the concept. This is the base of all of the creative that we have done, and this encapsulates what we want to bring to life. The American Kennel Club has been around for 135 years, that is 945 in dog years, so you could say we've picked up a thing or two along the way. Or, if you want to get technical, 89,719,931 things. Got a question about training your terrier? Healthiest snacks for your Shih Tzu. Which breeds are best for the beach? We've got the expert knowledge, advice, resources and support you need, anytime, anywhere, about anything and everything dog, whether your canine companion is wonderfully purebred or perfectly mixed. If it quacks, moos or meows, you've come to the wrong place. But if it barks, it's AKC. This is the idea behind what I will share with you now. We wanted to make sure that we were revitalizing our brand experience. You can see we chose a tone that was very fun, engaging and trying to get people to understand everything we love about AKC. We also thought it was extremely important to demonstrate that 135 years of knowledge. You will see that come through as we go through the creative. The campaign is called "If it barks, it's AKC". We have multiple ways that we will be bringing this to life. I'm going to show you a video first. We also, as I mentioned, will be on Spotify. So, I have audio. And then

we have some campaigns that are things that you would see like on Facebook or as you are Googling things. Let's start with the videos.

[Video played.]

Ms. Bahlke: You can see we are trying to make sure people understand both our knowledge of what we can deliver but we can have a little fun with what is going on in the world today. If we go to the second video.

[Video played.]

Ms. Bahlke: In this one you can see we start to bring in the importance of our knowledge, making a little fun of it with the pangolin but then also coming in with specific information about breeds, about the Beagle and about its sense of smell. One more video.

[Video played.]

Ms. Bahlke: These videos, as I said, you will start to see them beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup>. You will see them as what we call preroll, if you are on Google and you find something in a video you want to watch, you will see these come up first, please don't skip them, and then go right to your content. The next piece of the campaign, as I said, is audio, so if you are a Spotify listener or other music streaming services, this is where you will hear this.

[Audio played.]

Ms. Bahlke: We have another audio spot.

[Audio played.]

Ms. Bahlke: Thank you very much. You can see we are starting to pull those themes together, always bringing in a piece of knowledge about how you can trust AKC, but in a fun, engaging way. We also have our digital campaign, and this is what I said you will see coming up on your Facebook or as you are searching Google, and this is an animated versus an actual video. Why does my dog scoot? There he goes. Our guess, anal sac issues, but check with your vet. I guarantee this is the only ad you will ever see about anal sacs. "If it barks, it's AKC. If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. Ask us anything." So, again, we are trying to bring information in a lighthearted way but true information. We are also working together as a team to make sure that we are addressing the questions consumers have. We actually have done research, the content team

helped out, in looking at what are consumers asking when they come to our website so that our campaign addresses them. What are people Googling? And believe it or not, they are Googling about the scooting, and now we have an answer for them. A couple of the other ones, these aren't animated, but you get the idea. These would all be animated. Are Great Danes good apartment dogs? Yup, Great Danes can be great for apartments, just make sure you have a big enough couch. "If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. If it barks, it's AKC." Another one, why does my dog hide things? It's nature, not naughtiness. Keep your friends close and your underwear closer. "If it barks, it's AKC". You've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. Ask us anything." Why does my dog stare at me? Well, he either wants to go for a walk or steal your meatball sub. "If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. Ask us anything." So, as you can see, those all had what we call a call to action, so we want people to click on those and when they do they are going to come to a slightly redesigned AKC web page. Some of you may have already seen this because we actually have this already in place, but the campaign will drive them to here and they will see the "If it barks" logo and then "If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers." Even if people aren't coming from our campaign, we are still putting forth that attitude of we are here for you, we are a resource, how can we help. This is what it looks like on the desktop and this is what it looks like from a mobile perspective. And that's it. Hope you enjoyed. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you Kirsten.

The Chair calls on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club who will speak about AKC PAC initiatives.

Ms. LaBerge: Good morning everyone. I had a question come to the PAC Board on why the AKC PAC is important and how it relates to each of us in the sport of dogs, so I talked with Sheila Goff and Chris Sweetwood, our Vice Chair, and we came up with a little statement I would like to share with you.

Think of your legislator as a crafter who is crafting legislation in his office or in his buddy's offices down the hall. In order to help him craft legislation, we need the key that helps open the door to those offices. The key allows the AKC PAC to open the door to the legislators in order to educate them on what the AKC stands for and what we do in the sport of dogs. Your donation to the AKC PAC provides that key. Remember also that we need recommendations on which doors you need open in your own community to legislators that you see, that are on your city council, that are in your county government, your state-wide government, we need recommendations on who we need to reach out that understands our issues. We also would like for you personally to deliver that key in the form of the AKC PAC donation to that legislator in your community because we want them to associate you with animal issues as their expert, and the only way they are going to do that is if they get to know you personally. Buy a key today with your donation to the AKC PAC. Donations may be turned in after the meeting at the AKC GR table in the lobby as we go out to lunch. Become a key holder today. Support your community and your legislators that you need on your side. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you Gail.

Now we are going to see a video featuring the Meet the Breeds® event which took place at the New York City Javits Center January 25-26 – and thank you to every AKC Parent Club for the support.

[Video played.]

Mr. Sprung: Again, thank you to all of our Parent Clubs and all of our volunteers. Now I would like to do one more video, very heartwarming. Here's Johnny. Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate from the Redwood Empire Kennel Club).

[Video played.]

Mr. Sprung: That was a young autistic girl at a Juniors event who wanted to show a stuffed dog, and he made it happen. Thank you, Johnny. Last count was more than 6 million views across social media channels.

For your information, the Tuesday, June 9, 2020, Delegates meeting will be held here, at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. The Conference and Travel Department will place the hotel information on the Delegates Portal and email the Delegates when our block of rooms becomes available.

The Chair reminds the Board to meet immediately following this meeting in the Salem/Warren Room.

Lunch will be served at the close of the meeting on the Terrace, which is on this floor. Delegates are reminded to leave their badges at the registration desk following lunch.

Is there any further business to come before the Delegate Body?

Hearing none, the meeting stands adjourned.

[One sharp rap of the gavel]

[Time noted: 10:35 a.m.]

***The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.***

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
Delegate Zoom Meeting  
June 25, 2020

Dennis Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. DiNardo: Good morning, Delegates, and thank you for attending the Delegates Zoom Session. For your information, the meeting will be recorded. Attendees will not be seen or heard, and therefore, interactive features for attendees have been disabled, and to avoid background noise, everyone has been muted.

Mr. Sprung: Please join us in the playing of the National Anthem.  
(National Anthem played)

The Chair would like to introduce the Chairman, Dr. Thomas M. Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Executive Secretary, Gina DiNardo; and the Court Reporter, Sharon Pearce.

At the May Board meeting, Chairman Dr. Tom Davies asked the Staff to present technology solutions that would allow AKC to hold virtual meetings in June 2020, in order to update the Delegates on the state of our sports and business. After consulting AKC's not-for-profit Counsel, Staff received and reviewed the guidance from the New York State Attorney General on holding electronic member meetings during the pandemic. The New York State Attorney General recognizes the extenuating circumstances of a pandemic and has laid out best practice guidance for conducting such electronic meetings. Under that directive, Gina and I created a blueprint for virtual delegate meetings. The IT department then sourced technology solutions in full compliance with that plan, using the professional Zoom Webinar platform.

The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting.

Ms. DiNardo: These are Delegates seated since the last meeting:

**James F. Barron**, Redwood City, CA, to represent Contra Costa Kennel Club  
**Jane E. Bates**, Montgomery, TX, to represent Conroe Kennel Club  
**Joann B. Beavers**, St Michaels, MD, to represent Talbot Kennel Club  
**Michael Capozzi**, Manorville, NY, to represent Riverhead Kennel Club  
**Stephanie A. Crawford**, Binghamton, NY, to represent Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club  
**Luanne K. Dunham**, Newnan, GA, to represent Newnan Kennel Club

**Dr. Andrea C. Hesser, DVM**, Flower Mound, TX, to represent Mid-Continent Club of Tulsa

**Chereen M. Nawrocki**, Bangor, PA, to represent English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

**Tracy J. Pancost**, Louisville, KY, to represent West Highland White Terrier Club of America

**Susan Soviero**, Little Silver, NJ, to represent Bayshore Companion Dog Club

Mr. Sprung: The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read new Delegate biographies that were submitted in lieu of introductions from the floor.

Ms. DiNardo: I am pleased to introduce the following new Delegates:

**James Barron, Redwood City, California**

**Contra Costa County Kennel Club**

James Barron is representing the Contra Costa County Kennel Club from the San Francisco Bay Area. James' breed of choice is the Doberman Pinscher. He purchased his first purebred Doberman Pinscher in 1991 and presently has his 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Doberman Pinschers. From 1991 to the present he has been actively involved in Rescue, Breeding, Conformation, Parent Club and All-Breed Kennel Clubs. James believes there is a serious threat to the rights and privileges of purebred dog enthusiasts. He welcomes and is honored by the opportunity to join his fellow AKC Delegates in the representation, protection and preservation of purebred dogs for future generations. Mr. Barron thanks everyone for their dedication and he looks forward to meeting in person in the near future.

**Jane Bates, Montgomery, Texas**

**Conroe Kennel Club**

Jane is the first AKC Delegate for the recent new member club – Conroe Kennel Club in Conroe, Texas. She currently serves as the Show Chairman for Conroe Kennel Club, the Treasurer and Show Chairman for the German Shepherd Dog Club of Houston and is also a member of the Houston Kennel Club and a Co-Vendor Chair for the Houston World Series of Dog Shows. Her primary breeds are German Shepherd Dogs and Belgian Malinois and her primary interest is conformation although some of her GSDs have participated in herding competition. She has also worked in protection sports with her Malinois. She looks forward to learning more about other member clubs and the AKC.

**Michael Capozzi, Manorville, New York**  
**Riverhead Kennel Club**

Michael is a breeder/owner of Best in Show winning Afghan Hounds. But, 25 years ago he had no idea what an Afghan Hound was, let alone a dog show. That all changed when he met his wife and he has learned a lot since then. He is currently a member of several all-breed clubs and several specialty clubs. Michael is a Board member of the Long Island Kennel Club and the Corresponding Secretary of the Afghan Hound Association of Long Island. He has assisted in the planning and running of many dog shows over the years. With retirement in his near future, Mike will have more time to devote to actively showing and working at the shows to further the sport. He looks forward to representing the Riverhead Kennel Club as their new Delegate.

**Stephanie Crawford, Binghamton, New York**  
**Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club**

Stephanie represents Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club located in Oneonta, NY. This is a small club with members having various interests in the fancy but primarily focused on bringing more AKC performance sports to the upstate NY area. Stephanie looks forward to sharing the vast experience of the Delegate Body with her club.

**Luanne Dunham, Newnan, Georgia**  
**Newnan Kennel Club**

Lu Dunham is the new Delegate for the Newnan Kennel Club in Newnan GA. Lu is past President and has been a member of NKC since 2005. Lu is a retired nurse. She became an AKC judge in 2008 and judges Cavaliers, Shelties and Junior Showmanship. Her current breed is Cavaliers but she started out with AKC and Shelties in the 1980's. Lu is also Corresponding Secretary for the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club and a Trustee for the ACKCSC Charitable Trust and has been a member since 2003.

**Dr. Andrea Hesser, Flower Mound, Texas**  
**Mid-Continent Club of Tulsa**

Dr. Andrea Hesser is the new Delegate from the Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa. Her breed interests are varied, but she is most involved currently with Whippets. Dr. Hesser is a boarded veterinary reproduction specialist who practices primarily on canine patients at a busy general practice. She serves on the board for the American College of Theriogenologists, and also stays involved with local veterinary organizations. Her interests in reproductive medicine stemmed originally from her involvement as a junior handler in AKC sports, especially conformation. Outside of work, she is passionate about conformation and lure coursing with her dogs.

**Glen Lajeski, Cloverdale, California**  
**Doberman Pinscher Club of America**

Having Min Pins as his family's dogs Glen struck out on his own and transitioned to Great Danes in college. While in college and graduate school he began working for Kitty Kolyer of Kolyer Great Danes on weekends. Kitty introduced Glen to the world of dog shows, leading to his becoming a member of the Professional Handlers Association and handling professionally while also developing a career in the music industry. A career advancement caused a move from New York and the east coast to Hollywood which necessitated a shift from handling to judging and down-sizing from breeding Great Danes to Standard Poodles. Currently he judges breeds in the Toy, Working and Non-Sporting groups as well as Junior Handling. Glen actively breeds and shows Dobermans and Poodles, having co-sponsored the #1 Dog News Non-Sporting dog of 2010 and several top winning Dobermans. In the world of Poodles Glen is partnered with Joseph Vergnetti of Dassin Poodles. He recently retired from Disney as Executive Vice President of Music Creative/ Marketing for the film division, working on all live action, animated, and Pixar films during his tenure. Now he can focus full time on the great sport of dogs.

**Jolyne Lea, LA Center, Washington**  
**Vancouver Kennel Club**

Jolyne Lea is the new Delegate of the Vancouver Kennel Club in Vancouver Washington. She has been a club member since 2003 and currently is the Treasurer as well as having held several board positions. Jolyne is also a member of the Greater Clark County Kennel Club in Washington and has been a past treasurer and board member for that club. In breed clubs, she is a member of the Kuvasz Club of America and has served as treasurer and show chair of the 2000 National Specialty. She is also a member of the Great Pyrenees Club of America and served as President and Board member of the regional Columbia Cascade Great Pyrenees Club in southwest Washington.

**Chereen Nawrocki, Bangor, Pennsylvania**  
**English Cocker Spaniel Club of America**

Chereen Nawrocki represents the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, for which she has served on the board previously as a Director and President. In 2008 she was the show chair of their national specialty and was very involved in the 2012 national. Currently she is President of the ECSCA Health & Rescue Organization and is involved in planning for the 2022 ECSCA National. In over 25 years in the breed she has served her local English Cocker clubs in various positions while breeding and showing her English Cockers.

**Tracy Pancost, Louisville, Kentucky**

**West Highland White Terrier Club of America**

Tracy Pancost is the new Delegate for the West Highland White Terrier Club of America. She has been involved in Westies since she was five years old. Her passion is showing Westies in the conformation ring. She is extremely involved in her national club including Immediate Past President, current Finance Committee Chair, and current Roving National Chair. In addition, she is also very active in her all breed club, the Louisville Kennel Club and is currently the Vice-President. She is very excited about being a delegate and she looks forward to working with fellow Delegates in order to further this wonderful world of purebred dogs!

**Susan Soviero, Little Silver, New Jersey**

**Bayshore Companion Dog Club**

Susan is a retired bank officer and lives in New Jersey with her husband, John. She competes and trains in agility, obedience, rally, fast cat and has certified in therapy. All Susan's dogs have shown in conformation attaining Level Grand Championships. Susan shares her home with two Portuguese Water Dogs which she considers her breed and a Frenchie. Susan is dedicated to the all-round training of the dog for a fulfilling experience between dog and owner as well as to the health of her breed. Susan's club, Bayshore Companion Dog Club is a very active performance club that offers classes and sponsors trials year-round for most of the dog sports. Susan is past President of Bayshore and current Vice President. She also belongs to two breed clubs. Susan looks forward to this experience as a Delegate.

**Grace Wilkinson, Barrington, Rhode Island**

**Rhode Island Kennel Club**

Grace Wilkinson has been breeding and showing English Cockers under the Cliffwalk prefix for 15 years. Two of her litters all finished championships, and she recently put her first Grand Championship on a puppy. Her specialty is breeding litters of all boys. Her latest? 8 boys, no girls: a breeder's dream! Grace is also a very active, experienced ring steward who works for many clubs in New England. She frequently mentors upcoming stewards with a hands-off approach, allowing them to find a system that works best for their judges and for them.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. And a sincere welcome to each new Delegate. The Chair calls on Dr. Tom Davies for the Chairman's Report.

Dr. Davies: Good morning, everybody. It certainly is the dawn of a new day when our meeting of the AKC Delegate Body takes place over the Internet via Zoom. Although it's a depressing set of circumstances that has brought us together in this way, I'm grateful that we have been able to convene safely and efficiently. I'd like to give a huge

thank you to our management and staff for organizing the technology that's made this meeting possible. Most importantly, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for participating with us in this new way today. I'm also grateful to those Delegate Committees who have hosted their meetings virtually as well. Changes like these aren't easy, but we all know that the key to success is often the ability to adapt. We've all been grieving the loss of so many events, which has affected each of us in many different ways. It has deprived us of the joy of participating in our sports. It's meant significant loss of income for clubs, handlers, vendors, judges, and others who have supported our mission through their work. These are indeed very trying times. We will get through this, united as we are, for the sake of our dogs and our sports. As Jack Welch put it, we will "face reality as it is, not as it was or as we wish it to be." Although events have suffered tremendously, it is true that "the show must go on." And it has. Our staff has done incredible work throughout this ordeal, most of it behind the scenes and unsung in order to keep the home fires burning. As people around the country have brought puppies and dogs into their lives at rates we have not seen in quite some time, our registration department has been there to serve and welcome them into our ranks. Breeders who have been fortunate to welcome litters during the pandemic have also benefited from uninterrupted AKC services. Our communications and marketing teams have risen to the occasion in educating the public about responsible dog ownership during challenging times. Public Education has been delivering top-quality webinars for our judges to continue honing their knowledge and skills while everybody is sidelined. Club Development and the Events department have been hard at work during this crisis helping our clubs to manage cancellations and postponements. They have worked with other departments collaboratively, forging a path to normalcy with new procedures for our 26 sports. We have offered Pet Pals, Rally, Trick Dog, Act 1 Agility online and even a virtual dog show, to bring back a taste of what we have been missing for so long. Our staff has been agile and creative, because circumstances have necessitated flexibility. In the words of John F. Kennedy, "We would like to live as we once lived, but history will not permit it." You'll hear more from Dennis about all of these recent achievements and more. I will add that your Board has been very active during this time as well. We have met three times, virtually, appointed three ad hoc committees and elected a new Chief Financial Officer, Ted Phillips. Our thoughts have been with you and your club members every step of the way. Before I turn the virtual podium over to Dennis, I would like to say, speaking for the Board of Directors, we do have reason to have hope for better days ahead. These are unprecedented times. There is a sea change going on in our country right now, and some would say we are at a turning point in history. I will leave you with a thought from someone who lived under unimaginable circumstances and had much to teach the generations that followed, and that was Anne Frank: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Let's keep working together

constructively. We'll get through this, and we'll meet again, with our dogs by our sides. Thank you very much and thank you for your time. Be safe.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Tom. The Chair calls our Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota, for a report on three new committees.

Mr. Carota: Good morning, fellow Delegates. In an effort to serve the Delegate Body better and provide a high level of transparency, Dr. Tom Davies, Chairman of the Board, appointed three ad hoc committees in the areas of Communications, the Judging Approval Process, and Sample Bylaws. The AKC Chairman of the Board and I, as Vice Chairman, will sit as ex officio members of each Committee. The Board Communications Committee will consist of Karolynne McAteer, Ann Wallin and Steven Hamblin. The goals for communications committee are to institute a protocol for Board communication to the Delegate Body and the fancy in general in an appropriate and timely manner, and in particular, to avoid haphazard and inaccurate dissemination of such information. It will also communicate in an open and transparent fashion, so that the entire AKC constituency has the same information, at the same time, and in a reliable and easily understandable format. Additionally, the AKC Board of Directors has appointed two committees to study and make recommendations. The Committees are: The Committee to address the Judging Approval process. This is a reconstitution of the previous committee. It will monitor and review the Board's current policy on judging approval and determine where modification may be warranted. The committee will consist of Red Tatro, Tim Thomas, Bob Ennis from American Dog Show Judges, and Sam McDonald from Dog Judges Association of America. The Committee to address the AKC Sample Bylaws for Clubs. This committee will examine and make recommendations to modernize the current AKC "Sample Constitution and Bylaws" document and the process for making changes to a Club's existing document. The committee will consist of Lisa Cecin, AKC Director of Club Relations (Chair), Rita Biddle, Carl Holder, Gretchen Bernardi, and Heather McManus. Our goal with these committees is to continue to move AKC forward with thoughtful leadership and combined experience from the Board, AKC Staff and our constituency. Each committee will help improve and grow the AKC. We are here to serve you and better our cherished sports. Thank you and stay well. I look forward to when we can all be together again. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Dominic. Next on the agenda is the President's Report. An eternity in our life of dogs has gone by since we last met at the annual meeting just 111 days ago. Under the direction of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Board met three times rather than twice. Within days of the Delegate meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, it became obvious that our sports and corporate life must change. Clubs were postponing or cancelling events not of their choosing but because of federal and state mandates. Our

clubs want to hold their events encompassing 26 enjoyable sports; however, state fairgrounds, county parks, et cetera are closed to us. Both the Event Programs and Club Development areas, aided by numerous other employees in Events, assist clubs daily. As the pandemic increased, so did cancellations. We are at over 11,370, equaling 50 percent of our annual total. From early March, inspectors could not attend to their kennel visits and representatives in the field for our multiple sports had no events to attend.

I made several decisions for the short- and long-term future of AKC, many painful, some heartbreaking, while simultaneously bearing in mind that I am responsible to keep each department open to serve you, our diverse core constituency. This was with the support of the Executive Committee. We closed the North Carolina office on March 13<sup>th</sup> except for approximately 25 staff performing essential duties daily. We waited until April and laid off personnel who could not do their jobs due to cancellations, travel restrictions, or a reduction in certain work areas. The New York office closed on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Both offices are open. As COVID-19's devastating effects took over our nation and the economy collapsed, management reviewed every department's goals and expectations, researching opportunities for new or enhanced revenue and simultaneously looking at each line item for cost containment. My initial approach as reported to the Board on April 6<sup>th</sup> was to manage the corporation without a loss over the following four months, although there was some doubt that possibility could be achieved with declines being apparent everywhere businesses turned. Nevertheless, a dedicated and creative Executive Committee and Management group is accomplishing that.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, I began a call to action for daily management meetings to ensure cross-department communication, collaboration, and leadership so that efforts of government relations, branding, public relations, advertising, and sponsorships were maintained. During this time, we also dedicated ourselves to the success of new initiatives, such as Virtual Rally, Trick Dog videos, Virtual Pup Pals, as well as Puppy Visor, Virtual Act 1 Agility, Conformation and last week launched Virtual Water Dog. AKC.org and social media visits grew as did Judges' Education with 60 breed webinars and 17,653 live attendees. Marketplace is up. Registration saw significant increases across each offering – the best in decades. Management has met each day except when the Board was in session and once out of respect for Easter Sunday. These daily meetings have taught us that the first seven days of the week are always the hardest. I must publicly thank Gina, Mark, Doug, Keith, LB, Tim, Torraine, Ron, Seth, Peter, and our new CFO, Ted Phillips, Chairman Tom Davies, Vice Chair Dominic Palleschi Carota, as well as an engaged Board of Directors and Chairman Emeritus. Delegates, please remember we are here to assist each of you and your clubs. We understand this difficult and frustrating time everyone is experiencing. Now more than ever, dog people must be united. We have a shared responsibility to be protective of one

another, our lifestyles and beloved dogs. Be sure to tell your membership that Staff in each and every department are available for them. In the midst of uncertainty, be certain our enjoyable events will once again be held. Thank you.

It is my pleasure to introduce Theodore Phillips, who began as our CFO last month. He is a seasoned CPA with 32 years of experience and possesses significant background in Technology and Cyber Security for not-for-profit organizations. Ted will present the Financial Report.

Mr. Phillips: Thank you, Dennis, and good morning to all Delegates. I'm very pleased to be part of the American Kennel Club. This morning, I'm also pleased to present to you a revised and refreshed report for key financial reports. You'll see key performance indicators and financial results as we go through this presentation. For the five months ended May 31, 2020, we're pleased to present very positive news about our litter and dog registrations. This slide provides a monthly view of litter registrations for the five months ended May 31, 2020, with comparisons to the same period in 2019. As you can see, litter registrations totaled almost 115,000, which is seven percent higher than the same period in 2019. Notably, the month of May 2020, litter registrations were five percent better than the prior year. And our registration staff reports this was the best May since 2009. Turning to our dog registration statistics, please note that year to date registrations totaled over 291,000, which is 12 percent higher than the same period in 2019. Like our litter registrations, May 2020 was an outstanding month and the best since 2007. We thank our breeders, the entire delegate body, the Board of Directors, management, and staff for this achievement. As we have all experienced, 2020 has been a year on hold. AKC is not immune and has felt the impact of cancelled events and fewer entries. As of May 31, 2020, year to date, entries and events were lower than the same period in the prior year by 49 percent and 55 percent respectively. We are hopeful that each day in 2020 as we go forward, we will see a return to many wonderful AKC sanctioned, licensed, and member events that are our hallmark. Next, we will review the financial operating results for revenues, expenses, and net operating income as of May 31, 2020, comparing these results to the same period in 2019. The columns presented here are three data points. We have revenues in blue, expenses in gray, and net operating income in green. When comparing the year to date results at the end of May 2020, we see total revenues are five percent higher, reflecting increases across all revenue lines except events. Total expenses are 1.4 percent lower as a result of the cost containment measures implemented by management. As you heard from Dennis, these were implemented due to the pandemic, as we expected lower levels of business activity and anticipated the need for a lower operating cost structure. Finally, the green columns on this slide report net operating income as of May 31, 2020, of 4.6 million as compared to 2.6

million in 2019. On the next two slides, we will dive into the various revenue and expense lines that contributed to these variances. Our revenue lines present the total change in revenue by category. The columns in blue are increases in revenue and the orange column represents a decrease. As I said earlier, we are pleased to report that the total revenues from registrations of litters, dogs, pedigrees, and other enrollment fees total \$2.5 million higher than the same period in 2019 with dog registrations leading this group at 1.5 million. Additional revenue increases totaling 1.5 million come from admissions to events like Meet the Breeds that occurred at the Javits Center in New York in January of 2020 and merchandise sales both from e-commerce and traditional fulfillment methods. As mentioned earlier, when reporting on events, year-to-date revenues as of May 31, 2020, are lower than the same period for 2019 by \$2.3 million. And again, this is due to cancellations. The expense slide presents variances compared the five months ended 2020 against 2019. And again, for orientation, blue columns are areas where we spent more in the period ending May 31, 2020, than we did in the prior period of 2019. We see that the total of travel, marketing, professional fees, and staff costs are lower than the prior year by 1.4 million. Areas where we reported expenses greater than 2019 are grants to our affiliates and others. For 2020, the majority of the increases are grants to the Museum of the Dog. Fulfillment increased slightly due to increased registrations, but overall, on a comparative period basis, we spent less on operations in the five months ended May 31, 2020, than we did in 2019. For the investment's performance and analysis slide, we begin with some brief comments from our investment advisor. The month of May saw a slow and gradual reopening of many parts of the U.S. and global economies. Markets rallied on optimistic economic recovery news as well as promising headlines related to a shortened timeline for COVID-19 vaccine. What I'd like to present here are two charts. One is a pie chart, which shows the asset allocation of investments, and a chart with performance data for the current period extending to one and three-year trailing 12 months. The pie chart shows that AKC's investments are broadly diversified to manage market risk, and the other chart presents the investment performance for the five months ended May 31, 2020, reporting that the portfolio performance was a loss of 3.3 percent versus the benchmark, also a loss of 3.57. So, we outperformed the benchmark by 27 basis points. And given this type of market, this is pretty good performance. Finally, we present the balance sheet. Notable changes between the period ended May 31, 2020, and 2019 are on the line's investments and debt and capital leases. The overall decrease in 2020 is due to relieving debt in a period when investment values were much higher due to financial markets functioning in a pre-COVID-19 condition. I want to thank you for your time today. We appreciate your dedication to the AKC and look forward to serving you. I'm available to answer any questions at your convenience. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Ted. Per the email notification on April 7, 2020, of the official cancellation of the June 9, 2020, Delegate Meeting, there will be no voting at this Zoom Meeting.

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to please read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 3* – Dog Classifications.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 3 – Dog Show Classifications, inserts the proposed new Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class into the list of regular classes. It also adds the language to clarify the puppy class may be divided.

This proposal is contingent on delegate approval of the new Chapter 3, Section 8A, to create the Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class. Rejection of the proposed Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class would require amendment to this proposal.

*This amendment was inadvertently omitted from the March 2020 Delegate Meeting.*

The amendment was proposed and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the next meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates were asked to email amendment questions prior to this meeting. There were none for this amendment.

The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 10* – Making Application to Hold a Dog Show.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 10* – Making Application to Hold a Dog Show, generalizes the language of the section by removing the reference to a form and deleting the phrase whether the futurity or sweepstakes will be open to nonmembers. The amendment also provides flexibility so that any future modification to the application procedures will not require further amendment to the rule.

This amendment was proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the next meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates were asked to email amendment questions prior to this meeting. There were none for this amendment.

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 6* – Championships.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 6* – Championships, assigns the same logic to Grand Championship points as Championship points at independent specialties with inter-variety competition as defined in Chapter 16, Section 3. It also inserts language into the section explaining that at an independent specialty show for breeds divided into recognized varieties and offering a Best of Breed competition, the dog awarded Best of Breed would receive the highest number of Grand Championship points awarded in any variety at the specialty show. The dog awarded Best of Opposite Sex would receive the highest number of Grand Championship points awarded in its sex in any variety at the specialty show.

This amendment was proposed by AKC Staff, endorsed by the Dog Show Rules Committee, and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the next meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates were asked to email amendment questions prior to this meeting. There were none for this amendment.

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read a list of vacancies for the Delegate committees that are to be filled in September.

Ms. DiNardo: These are the vacancies on Delegate committees that are to be filled at the September Delegate meeting:

**All-Breed Clubs Committee:** 3 three-year terms and 1 one-year term.

**Bylaws Committee:** 4 three-year terms and 1 two-year term.

**Canine Health Committee:** 4 three-years terms.

**Companion Events Committee:** 3 three-year terms and 1 one-year term.

**Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee:** 3 three-year terms.

**Dog Show Rules Committee:** 3 three-year terms.

**Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee:** 4 three-year terms.

**Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Committee:** 4 three-year terms and 1 two-year term.

**Parent Clubs Committee:** 3 three-year terms and 1 two-year term.

**Perspectives Editorial Staff:** 6 two-year terms.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates will be emailed self-nomination forms by the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>. This self-nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be directed to our Executive Secretary. Delegates may self-nominate for one committee, except that a member of the *Perspectives* Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee. In August, the Delegates will be emailed the nominees for each committee and their qualification statements.

Due to the continuing global pandemic, details on the September 15, 2020 Delegate Meeting will be provided to you after the July Board of Directors Meeting.

Delegates were given the opportunity to submit questions prior to this Zoom Meeting. We received a question from Lorraine Ebdon, Delegate from Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association.

The question reads: "Will the AKC have a policy concerning COVID-19 and require the wearing of masks for judges/exhibitors, or will they defer to the state requirements? If so, would a face shield instead of a mask be acceptable?"

The Chair calls on Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports & Events to respond to this inquiry.

Mr. Ljungren: Since the local situation varies across the nation, AKC's policy is that club-holding events must be in compliance with local guidelines. In addition, clubs may at their option require all participants to wear a face covering. This must be clearly communicated in the premium and signage at the event. Unless specified otherwise by government ordinances, face shields are an acceptable alternative to a mask.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Doug.

There being no further business to come before the Delegate Meeting, on behalf of your Board of Directors and Staff, wishing you the best of health – and also to your loved ones and families and dogs, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you and be well.

[One sharp rap of the gavel]

[Time noted: 11:41 a.m.]

AKC Communicates

August 2020

<https://link.akc.org/view/5b86ed0924c17c573845ab86cmj0v.3dz/7ee63fe3>

July 2020

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July 2020

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June 2020

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