

Delegate's Corner #4

Don James

LCA AKC Delegate

With this meeting, I have now completed my first year representing the LCA as our AKC Delegate. I am excited about doing this job. The relationships I've been able to initiate with fellow Delegates cannot help but positively affect our club. Delegates must serve for two years before becoming eligible to run for membership in one of the nine Delegate committees. I'm sure I'll be appointed as a member of the Perspectives Delegate Newsletter Editorial Staff as I'm already writing articles for that publication. I've also got my eye on a Parent Club Committee position, but that's apparently a very, very difficult committee to become a part of.

This meeting was held in Newark, New Jersey on March 11th and 12th. The March meeting is always the Delegate's Annual meeting, and, as such, was built around the election of four members of the AKC Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of Delegates. AKC officers are also part of the Board but 13 members are elected from the Delegate body. This year's election was for the Class of 2017, meaning the new member's term will run through 2017. A successful candidate must receive 67% of the total number of ballots cast. Separate ballots are held until 4 candidates have met those criteria.

The four new Board members include:

Current Board Chairman, Alan Kalter, Delegate from the American Bull Mastiff Club.

Harvey Wooding, Delegate from the Westminster Kennel Club

Lee Arnold, Delegate from the Southern Colorado Kennel Club

Carl Ashby, Delegate from the Kerry Blue Terrier Club of America

During the Delegate's meeting, a vote was taken on whether to allow AKC registered Agility Clubs to become part of the Delegate body. The vote was approved almost unanimously. Of all the conformation and performance related events for the calendar year 2012, Agility showed by far the largest gain in participation with entries up over 11% from 2011.

Here's an overview of significant information from committee meetings that LCA Member should be aware of.

Health:

The AKC will sponsor a Parent Club Health Conference in St. Louis, Missouri between August 9th and 11th of next year. Each Parent Club may send a representative. The conference fee will be picked up by AKC. Additional members in attendance must register and pay the regular conference fee.

Breeders:

A Breeder's Symposium is scheduled for the 2014 AENC (AKC / Eukanuba National Championship). It will be free to all participants and will be scheduled during the December event. The presentation will be given on December 14th and 15th and will be videotaped and placed on the public side of the AKC Web site.

General:

The AKC Board of Directors has approved a club's option to send only electronic copies of their premium list to entrants.

Book of the Dog – the 21st edition of the AKC's Book of the Dog (the first one to include Leonbergers) is on track for a publication. The completed section for each breed will be returned to each Parent Club by November 1st, 2013 for a final review and edit. That copy will include the pictures selected by the publisher (Bow Tie Inc.) for publication.

The June Delegate's meeting in Raleigh, NC will feature a Delegate's Forum presentation from Attorney Peter Kanalea on estate planning as it relates to our dogs. The presentation will be made available to member clubs in a yet to be specified format.

2013 Javits Center Meet the Breeds:

Date for the 2013 Javits Center Meet the Breeds show will be much earlier this year, September 28th & 29th.

Text of AKC Board Chairman Alan Kalter's address to the Delegate body:

http://www.akc.org/about/chairmans_report/2013.cfm?page=3

I am proud of what Alan said. Listen, the AKC has its issues. I have certainly seen many things I think could be done better in my year of attending these quarterly meetings.

But, I've also seen an organization that stands as the primary defender of the right to own a purebred dog in the entire world.

I've also seen an organization that has donated untold millions of dollars to the study of canine health issues and started several now self-sustaining charities all of which have a single purpose; the betterment of the canine-human bond.

Many wonder why it's important to register a dog with the AKC, especially if its role will be as "only" a family member.

That is why.