

Delegate's Report – March 9 & 10, 2015

Don James, AKC Delegate

AKC President Dennis Sprung announced that ½ of 1 floor of the AKC Corporate Office building in Raleigh, NC has been leased to another company. 46 current AKC employees (mostly in Event Ops) will now begin working from home. This move will save AKC over \$1 Million in the next 5 years.

The March meeting signals the annual election of the Board of Directors. Election of the Board consumed the majority of the Delegate's General Meeting on Tuesday. The Class of 2019 offered 5 candidates, three incumbents (Bob Amen, Steve Gladstone & Dr. Carmen Battaglia). Two additional Delegates were nominated by petition (Dr. Thomas M. Davies & Dr. Gregory Paveza).

Usually, there will be several ballots required for 3 candidates to receive the required 181 votes required for election. This number is based on a percentage of the Delegate I attendance (358). At this meeting, only one ballot was required. Elected were:

Dr. Tom Davies 211

Dr. Carmen Battaglia 209

Steve Gladstone 201

LCA voted for Dr. Davies, Mr. Gladstone, and Dr. Battaglia

Ron Menaker was elected as Chair replacing Alan Kalter.

Carl Ashby was elected Vice Chair replacing Dr. Charles Garvin.

A vote was taken on 1 measure presented to the Delegate body.

A change to Chapter 11 Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows:

Allow individual dogs to have their limited registrations removed day of show in which they are entered. Previously, this rule required the removal of this designation by the closing date of the show in question in order for the dog to participate legally in that show.

The measure passed by a count of hands.

LCA vote: yea

A Change to Chapter 2 Section 2-16 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows read this meeting to be voted on in June.

Changes to this section would require clubs to (1) hold events in their territory to retain exclusivity; and (2) only provides exclusivity for a defined period of time surrounding the show date. Additionally, an appeals process is outlined for clubs that believe permission to hold a show within another club's territory has been unreasonably withheld.

This change should pass as it simply brings the written rule into compliance with current operating procedure.

As I've indicated in past reports, I attend the Health Committee meeting and the Parent Club Committee meeting when the two meetings do not occur at the same time. The remainder of the meetings are covered in the Coordinating Committee meeting.

Parent Club Meeting – Pat Laurens Chair

Results of the Parent Club committee Health Survey (to date) were presented by committee member Peter Piusz.

Only 64 clubs have responded to this survey (The LCA is one of those 64). The survey asks each member club to identify individual approved health testing requirements which will be included in each breed's portion of the canine classified section of the new AKC website. This will help prospective buyers understand what tests are required so they can discuss this with prospective breeders.

Much discussion centered on issues with the newly rolled out AKC website. There were lots of complaints and the meeting took some rather bizarre turns as Chris Walker, AKC's VP of Marketing & Communications was grilled about several issues. The most common complaints involved individual breed pages. Chris has designated a person on his staff to field issues that Delegates may

have about their portion of the site. Each parent club has been asked to nominate one person to act as the liaison between its club and the AKC representative.

Many Delegates feel that the new website caters too much to pet owners while ignoring the needs of the show and performance audience. This will be an ongoing battle as AKC's metrics show that only 88% of all website hits come from pet owners and people wanting to find out more about a particular breed.

Pekingese Delegate Steve Hamlin has been collecting a list of best practices followed by parent clubs to help increase their membership. The LCA is one of only 24 breeds who have responded to this request.

The Parent Club Committee is trying to develop a list of legislative liaisons for each of our clubs. This person would be the point person for our club to disseminate information about measures that might be on the agenda of various state legislatures which might positively or negatively affect the canine population. The designated person should contact either Corgi Delegate Anne Bowes (heronswaycorgis@verizon.net) or AKC Legislative Coordinator Sheila Goff (shg@akc.org).

Parent Club committee is asking each member club to notify Peter Piusz of the name and email addresses of their respective rescue organizations. LCA has provided names for Leo Rescue and Leo PALS. Leos in Need did not respond to my request for inclusion.

An updated proposal for the new Judge's approval process has been completed (6.1). It will be sent out to Delegates as and RFC before any action is taken.

Pet Disaster Trailer Update:

19 trailers have been delivered

9 trailers are currently under construction

Donations to date total \$866,000.00

There was more discussion about leveling the playing field for low entry breeds (the Leonberger is at the very top of the low entry breed list In other words, we're very close to NOT being a low entry breed). The current proposal has been reviewed by the parent club committee and it was forwarded to the LCA Board on January 29.

Meet the Breed wrap-up:

Orlando MTB had 162 breeds (no Leonbergers) represented and attracted 30,000 people.

The first Westminster MTB had 145 breeds (including Leonbergers) and attracted 20,000 people.

Health Committee – Susan Hamil Chair

We had a short presentation by Susan Lilly, the new CEO of the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF). This year's CHF grants will be announced within the next couple of weeks.

This year's Canine Health conference is scheduled for August 7-9 at the Hyatt Riverfront Hotel. The conference itself will be held at Purina Farms. Online registration is now open at the CHF website (<http://www.akcchf.org/>). \$250 includes hotel and most meals for one participant from each club. This conference occurs in odd years and this year's list of speakers looks pretty amazing.

Eddie Dziuk (co-owner of Westminster BIS Miss P, the Beagle) reported that there is not a magic number of tests required for a dog to receive a CHIC number, but the number of tests required must be greater than one.

175 breeds are participating in CHIC.

Almost 98,000 dogs are now in the CHIC database.

There are over 20,000 DNA samples in the bank.

Cornell has come out with a measurement called EBV (Estimated Breeding Values) which is a method of estimating traits which will be passed on to litters of 3 study breeds (Goldens, Labs, & GSD's.)

Health Committee is looking for other ways to recognize good things breeders are doing to promote best breeding practices.

Two years ago, the International Dog Health Workshop started a new cooperative organization which is charged with a general study of the health and welfare of dogs. This year, the conference centered on how different countries go about mandating and verifying health testing. A new website (<http://dogwellnet.com>) will be created to allow information sharing on canine issues being studied in different countries. OFFA and CHF both sent representatives to this latest conference.

AKC Chair Alan Kalter announced that we have 5 finalists for the new Chief Veterinary Officer executive position. June is the target for hire. This person will be a practicing Vet who will take on the CVO duties on a part time basis.

Alan also talked about the new AKC H.E.A.R.T. breeder recognition program

This award will be given to breeders who do all club mandated health testing and maintain kennels according to AKC rules. 60% of breeders who register on the AKC website are first time breeders. This is designed to incent those new breeders to follow parent club and AKC rules. This designation will be awarded annually and must be renewed annually by passing an online test administered by AKC. The criteria is completely different from the older Breeder of Merit program. The rollout is planned for late April.

Coordinating Committee Overview

Again, the Coordinating Committee is the last meeting on the agenda after all committee meetings have been completed. The Chairs of each committee meet to go over items discussed during their individual committee meetings. There are 9 such committees and, since each Delegate can only attend 2 meetings (1 in the AM; 1 in the PM), the Coordinating Committee gives interested Delegates the opportunity to find out what's happening in those meetings they were unable to attend.

All Breed Committee – Ann Wallin Chair

Nancy Fisk sitting in for Ann Wallin –

The All Breed committee is doing a study of best practices which is remarkably similar to the study currently in process by the parent club committee. They are getting much better response.

The National Owner Handled Series (NOHS) is NO LONGER mandated as a pre-requisite for holding an AKC sanctioned event.

By Laws Committee – Gretchen Bernardi Chair

An amendment is in the works to allow Judges who are members of the Delegate body to charge a nominal fee and still remain a Delegate. Current rules prevent any Delegate from charging for any type of dog show related activity.

The committee is concerned about the number of Delegates who are leaving the body as well as the large number of clubs who remain unrepresented by a Delegate. They are trying to figure out ways to convince these clubs of the importance of having a Delegate to represent them.

Companion Events Committee – Ruth Crumb Chair

There was a clarification of the new Companion Club initiative being championed by AKC. There was concern that these types of companion clubs (which are comprised of pet owners) will not be confused with the AKC's companion events competition group. A suggestion was entertained to have the Companion clubs name changed to avoid any such confusion.

Dog Show Rules Committee – Cindy Miller Chair

Reserve Best Junior Handler is now in place

A move was rejected which would have allowed a show veterinarian to also exhibit a dog

A project is now in place to clean up the entire "Rules Applying to Dog Shows" manual

A Pee Wee handler class is going to be trialed. If successful, it could become an optional event at AKC sanctioned events

Herding & Earthdog Committee – Bob LaBerge Chair

There is a proposal that would allow non-herding breeds to earn a certificate by passing a herding aptitude test. This is much like the CAT (Coursing Ability Test) being given to all breeds who pass this test.

There is an ongoing issue is getting enough certified lure coursing judges to judge the increasing number of events.

Straight line CAT is going to be trialed at upcoming coursing trials. This is just like a course CAT test except it tests the breed's ability to course in a straight line. This is a pilot program, so no new rules will need to be drafted.

Delegate Advocacy & Advancement Committee – Dan Smyth

There is a move to reorganize the Coordinating committee

The new Delegate orientation program is also under review

Letters have been sent to club representatives who have not sent a Delegate to a meeting in over 2 years

Field Trials & Hunt Test Committee – Dave Hopkins

Dave Hopkins has asked for a coordinating committee to create a recommendation to study the inclusion of information about companion and performance events available to a particular breed in literature sent by the AKC to new purebred puppy owners.

This is designed to make new owners aware of events like agility, lure coursing, barn hunts etc. available to them.

Submitted 3/18/2015

Don James

AKC Delegate