

**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**  
**Delegates Meeting**  
**March 12, 2019**

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

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dias: Ron Menaker, Chairman; Dr. Tom Davies, Vice Chairman; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Josephine Fassett, the Court Reporter.

Mr. Sprung reminded the Delegates in attendance to sign in at the computer stations outside the meeting room.

The Executive Secretary will now read the report of the Nominating Committee and the report on additional nominations as follows:

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the Nominating Committee, Dr. Michael Knight, Chair, Texas Kennel Club; Pamela Beale, Westchester Kennel Club; Ross Jones, Rio Grande Kennel Club; Louise Leone, Colorado Kennel Club; Sylvia Thomas, Kennel Club of Riverside, appointed by the Board of Directors at its August 2018 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 12, 2019.

There are three vacancies for the Class of 2023. Dr. Thomas Davies, Springfield Kennel Club; Dr. Charles Garvin, Dalmatian Club of America; Daniel J. Smyth, Esq., Burlington County Kennel Club.

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 2023, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 12, 2019: Karen J. Burgess, Greater Clark County Kennel Club; Steven Hamblin, Pekingese Club of America.

Mr. Sprung reported that the Bylaws provide explanation that no nominations may be made today from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2018. The Delegates were reminded that elections are in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, which require a majority vote to elect. There were three vacancies for the Class of 2023. If more than three candidates receive a majority vote, the three receiving the highest number are elected. If less than three candidates receive a majority of vote, those receiving a majority are elected, and the other candidates may remain on the ballot. The Delegates were reminded to vote for no more than three candidates for the Class of 2023.

The election procedure was overseen by the accounting firm of KPMG. The ballots were scanned and tabulated electronically. All candidates were offered the opportunity to observe the election procedures.

[There was a brief recess as the Delegates cast their ballots.]

The Chair reported the passing of Gwen McCullagh on January 5 who served as Delegate for Huntington Kennel Club since January of 2005. She began showing Basset

Hounds in 1973 and was avid in the sport as well as an AKC Judge for over 40 years. Mr. Sprung addressed the Delegates about the passing of Stanley Saltzman on January 15. He was a Delegate for the San Francisco Dog Training Club and Longshore-Southport Kennel Club with the longest continuous service of any current Delegate or staff member. He chaired the AKC Ad Hoc Committee on Committees which proposed the standing rule in 1993 that led to the creation of the Delegate Committees. Stanley was a member of the Bylaws Committee from 1999 to 2005 and served as an AKC Board member. He was a judge for almost 50 years. In March 1983, the Delegate Body voted for a landmark initiative of theirs by adding to the number of groups increasing from six to seven with the addition of herding.

Mr. Sprung offered condolences for Kitty Sarvinas on January 11 who was a Delegate for the Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland since March of 1999. A constant volunteer at the AKC booth for our National Championship along with Gary.

Finally, he advised about the passing of Marlene Steinberg, on January 20 who was Delegate for Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association since October of 2005.

The Executive Secretary read the names of the Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Sylvia Arrowwood, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, to represent Myrtle Beach Kennel Club.

Cathy M. Driggers, Lake Helen, Florida, to represent West Volusia Kennel Club.

Sally L. Fineburg, Yardley, Pennsylvania, to represent Hatboro Dog Club.

Jennifer L. Guinn, Wood Dale, Illinois, to represent Chicago Bulldog Club.

Doug Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colorado, to represent Colorado Springs Kennel Club.

Kelly D. Reimschiessel, Highland, Utah, to represent Utah Valley Kennel Club.

Dr. Anne L. Testoni, Bolton, Massachusetts, to represent Wachusett Kennel Club.

Erika N. Wyatt, Maple Park, Illinois, to represent American Sloughi Association.

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

Doug Johnson to represent Colorado Springs Kennel Club

Erika N. Wyatt to represent American Sloughi Association

Sylvia Arrowwood to represent Myrtle Beach Kennel Club

Robyn Foust to represent Idaho Capital City Kennel Club

David Harsh to represent Cape Cod Kennel Club

Amy Romeo to represent Mohawk Valley New York Kennel Club

Sally Fineburg to represent Hatboro Dog Club

The minutes of the December 14, 2018, Delegates meeting were published in the online January 2019 Gazette and a complete transcript was posted on the Delegates Portal on AKC's website. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as published. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

Mr. Sprung advised that The Chairman's report would be distributed to all Delegates via email following the meeting. He noted that it would also be available on the Delegates Portal.

Mr. Sprung gave the President's Report as follows:

I am proud to share that 2018 ended in positive territory throughout the organization: Litters increased by 5 percent and individual dogs by 4 percent. The number of unique breeders grew by 6 percent. Aggregate entries were up more than 100,000, ending the

year at 3,243,265 – the highest ever in AKC's history. Public relations and social media numbers are each positive. AKC.org has more than 8 million unique users monthly, plus increases in AKC Marketplace and Instagram with a recent gain of 10,000. The AKC Facebook page is quickly approaching 4 million followers. We also launched a major initiative, AKC.tv, under the direction of Gina, which is available on Apple TV, Roku and Amazon Fire. Additionally, the mobile app can be downloaded on the App store and Google Play.

On September 17, the date of our founding, we moved into our new office while simultaneously building the AKC Museum of the Dog and renovating our North Carolina operations facility.

2019 has started off successfully as a dream come true for AKC and dog people with the opening of your Museum of the Dog. Thanks to AKC's PR department we garnered rave reviews for the museum with over 1,300 media placements. I congratulate AKC's Board of Directors; this accomplishment is indeed their legacy.

Just 10 days ago (March 2<sup>nd</sup>), our social media department posted one of our own agility videos on Facebook. In 10 days, we have over two and a half million views.

Eleven years ago, after meeting with members of The Kennel Club to understand their "Discover Dogs" program, my belief was that AKC could emulate and also enhance it. I brought the idea back to the States and developed Meet the Breeds. Thanks to our parent clubs, local specialty clubs, Delegates, Board and staff, last month was our tenth year of this successful educational outreach. I will now share a video with you made by David Woo, AKC multi-media specialist, providing a taste of this year's accomplishments thanks to our Delegates and other volunteers.

[Video played]  
[Applause]

Mr. Sprung recognized Dr. Carmen Battaglia as follows: Carmen has been a dedicated and appreciated member of this Delegate Body since 1990 as Delegate of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and first elected to the Board of Directors four years later. He served his Parent Club in multiple capacities, including President. As an AKC Board member, he Chaired and was on countless committees and liaison to the Parent Clubs, Bylaws, and Herding Delegate committees. In 1996, as President of AKC Companion Animal Recovery, now Reunite, he expanded their mission to assist dogs as he traveled the nation doing the right thing when disasters occurred, saving dogs while bringing relief to owners in need. He remains an active Breeder of Merit and Multiple Group/Best-in-Show judge. A prolific researcher and distinguished writer, his articles contribute to the positive future of dogs, AKC, our sports and responsible breeding. He was President of the Dog Writers Association of America and inducted into their Hall of Fame. Lastly, we will always cherish his passion as a friend of the Board and staff alike as Carmen's dedication to the well-being of dogs has no limit. Dr. Battaglia, please stand.

[Applause, standing ovation]

Mr. Sprung recognized Chairman Ron Menaker as follows: We know a special man named Ron, quiet, noncommittal, always calm. To start the discussion of our Chairman

is to restate the virtue we love in our dogs – that of unconditional loyalty. His appreciation and respect for AKC, dogs, clubs, delegates, fanciers and employees have no barriers.

I really came to know him well while serving as Vice President and being told by both he and David Merriam that as a result of the 2003 registration meltdown I was immediately being transferred to North Carolina as the new COO. What they didn't tell me was that Ron would be helping in the registration department for a few months. He went through every single file cabinet, emptying them of registration forms and checks. In so doing, he earned the nickname "Pops" from the ladies in the registration department. I recall during a conversation when everyone was seated on the floor, placing the applications into batches, one of the ladies said to Ron, "What do you do?" He responded, "I'm Chairman of The American Kennel Club." The room erupted with laughter. These dear women were hysterical. What a sense of humor "Pops" had. How could this regular guy who treated them the same way he treated himself, with common courtesy and without privilege, be Chairman? We began work every day at 7AM and stopped at 7PM, ending with dinner when we met nightly with the consultants who were rebuilding the registration process to right the sinking ship. Thanks to Ron, we did.

He leads by example. His outspoken support of ideas advanced by staff resulted in earnings of more than \$240 million in alternative revenue, allowing us to monetize opportunities that were rejected just years earlier.

However, there is a more important side of our Chairman: Humanitarian. That entails much more than his generous donations to dog-related organizations. Without mentioning a single name, the people whose lives he has assisted from a health point of view are just too many to count. Standing here I am reminded of a number who were touched because when you reached out to Ron, he reached out to others. Whether it was the fancier who came to New York for a second opinion and had to be tracked down at the airport to return to the City because the impossible-to-arrange procedure became possible; or the show chair whose grandson was dying so Ron sent a medivac helicopter; or the Delegate who wanted to bring her daughter to Manhattan to see a world-renowned specialist, only to be told there was a three-month wait while her own doctor gave her just weeks to live. She saw the specialist that very week.

I once accompanied someone to the hospital where Ron was Chairman. We arrived at the emergency room's ambulance entrance and were met by many caregivers from the President of the hospital on down. Later I asked Dr. Logan, the President, "What were you doing out in the snow with a host of doctors and nurses in tow?". He said, "What do you think I was doing there, Ron called." Friends, that patient was my mother.

I often watched as your Chairman moved mountains to help people in our sport. What amazed me is that many of the people he helped, he had never met. They were family to some dog person, sometimes one of you, and that was good enough for Ron.

The American Kennel Club has been blessed with some great women and men over the past 135 years, but in today's world the word "great" is just too commonplace. Every breed does not have a great one. Each pick of the litter does not produce the next great show dog. However, this Chairman will be remembered as a great human being who touched every person. In my opinion, his contributions are yet to be fully realized or appreciated. Either philosophically, business-wise or from a visionary point of view, last evening's museum tour is but one example of his great leadership. Certainly, there would not be an AKC Museum of the Dog in New York City if there wasn't a Ron Menaker.

Ron, on behalf of the Board and staff, we are thankful for your respect of our combined efforts to advance AKC, our dogs and clubs. We thank you and will forever be indebted for your friendship and leadership. We love you, Ron.

[Applause, multiple standing ovations]

The Chair called on Vice Chairman Dr. Tom Davies who gave a special presentation as follows:

Dr. Davies: Good morning. It's my great pleasure to present to you the following. At a meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club held on February 8, 2019, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Whereas Mr. Ronald H. Menaker first joined the Delegate Body as the Delegate for the Bedlington Terrier Club of America and was appointed to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors on May 13, 1996, serving until May 10, 1998; And whereas he was reelected for three successive terms commencing on March 14, 2000, serving until March 13, 2012; And whereas he was reelected on March 11, 2014, serving until March 13, 2018; Whereas he was again reelected on March 13, 2018, serving a one-year term until March 12, 2019; And whereas during his Board tenure his contributions to The American Kennel Club are countless. Highlights include Chairman of the Board, Vice Chairman of the Board, President of the AKC Museum of the Dog, Chairman of the AKC National Championship, Judge, and the guiding force which moved the museum back to New York; Whereas his sports knowledge and business acumen provide professional and expert leadership to every aspect of our organization in sports; Whereas we are ever mindful of the greater contributions he has made to the organization over the past three decades; And whereas we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished judge, gentleman and friend; Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club appoint Ronald H. Menaker, Chairman Emeritus of The American Kennel Club in perpetuity.

[Applause, standing ovation]

Chief Financial Officer, Joseph Baffuto gave the Financial Report as follows: Good morning everyone. We thank you all for assembling here and best of luck to all the candidates on the ballot this morning, as well as to all those who have served our wonderful organization in so many immeasurable ways. I'm privileged in providing you with our unaudited financial results for the performance report for 2018 fiscal year. A non-consolidated summary of the AKC operating revenues and expenses through December 31, 2018, are comparatively presented here. We recorded 76.8 million in total revenue and 72.6 million in total expenses for an operating income of just over \$4.2 million, in comparison to the full audited 2017 year where we reflected 71.7 million in revenue with 65.6 million in operating expenses and a full year of 6.1 million in operating income. Additionally, please note there were a few unbudgeted adjustments that were not part of our standard AKC operations in 2018. We reflected a noncash rent expense in order to fully record our deferred rent through December 2018 totaling approximately \$4 million, as well as relocation and related fixed asset and leasehold write-offs at year end. There was also a lease buyout payment of 850,000, as well as an unrelated business income tax payment of 350,000. Our next exhibit presents AKC's core registration volumes and year-over-year performance. Our litter volume increased by 5 percent with a total annual volume of 251,000 in 2018. Our dog registrations also rose by 4 percent for the year reaching 581,000. As was presented during our meeting in Orlando in December, we had a goal to pass the milestones of 250,000 litters and 575,000 dogs. We did achieve our goal. We've now marked a full five conservative years of increasing volumes. We are now at our peak volumes from nearly a decade ago. An

overall thanks to the dedicated efforts and purpose demonstrated throughout our Delegate Body, our Board of Directors and management staff and each and every vital area of the organization. Congratulations, and we strive for more triumphs ahead. Let's briefly reflect upon the highlights of our sports and events area for 2018. There were just shy of 22,000 sanctioned and licensed and member events held throughout the year. Our total entries of 3.2 million for 2018 was an overall increase of over 3 percent in comparison to 2017. Congratulations are in order to management and staff and all involved who worked so hard and are focused to assist all of our clubs and their future successes in AKC sports and events. Let's drill down into the AKC 2018 operating statement where our total revenues increased by 7 percent. We'll first assess our largest increases to revenue year over year. All registration related revenues correspond to 52 percent of AKC's total revenues. Registration related services increased by \$3.9 million overall. This included the major components: Litters by 700,000, dogs by 1.5 million, pedigrees by 400,000, as well as Good Dog Helpline by just over 200,000. All other reg related revenue increased by an additional \$1 million. The positives continue in Sports & Events which rose by 1.36 million overall, including the specific areas of Trick Dog which had an increase of \$160,000 and Canine Good Citizen which grew by 400,000, and recording in event service fees which produced almost \$800,000 in additional gross revenue. Also, our marketplace revenues soared by about 200,000, and our affiliate royalties grew by more than 300,000 year over year. Thanks again to everyone involved with these positive efforts in succeeding to promote the services and programs of The American Kennel Club. We'll next address analysis of expenses. Beginning at the top of the organization and as a requirement of the AKC Bylaws, we can report that the total amount of Board of Directors related expenses in fiscal 2018 was \$333,341. Moving forward we'll next take a look at where AKC's operating expenses escalated in the 2018 year. Our total expenses increased by \$7 million or 10 percent overall. The largest single component of this increase relates to our payroll and benefits. Our full-time equivalent headcount at December 31 was 350. Payroll and benefits rose by 2.8 million or 8 percent in total. This is due to a combination of factors, including rising benefit costs, fulfilling open positions during the fiscal year, along with adding new budgeted positions and our standard annual performance-based increases. Our consulting costs grew by 1.3 million in 2018 which related to a number of new areas and impactful programs, among which included our efforts with AKC TV, digital marketing, our research concepts for consumer demand of purebred dogs, our detection dog task force team, and upgrading our financial reporting systems. Our cloud and migration services fees increased by more than 650,000. As we continue to move our technology storage to the cloud and increased our telecommunications and database security services, this imperative increase helped us to achieve our current technology objectives while controlling any future expenditures and hardware maintenance. Our ongoing library digitization project resulted in an additional outlay of \$380,000. Our Education programs included an additional \$90,000 in expenditures supporting new software as well as information presenting summits. Outside of AKC's operations next we'll take an overview of our investment performance. In 2018 AKC's investment activities reflected unrealized losses of \$6.4 million and an investment return of negative 4.76 percent. These results were most predominantly due to a poorly performing market through late November and all of December 2018. Now although this negative performance was not what we were expecting, we did outperform our benchmark by just about 1.5 percent. We do take a long-term focus and vision in our portfolio's goals and applications. Also, of note we are pleased to share that our portfolio has since successfully rebounded back and beyond into positive territory here in the opening months of 2019. Taking a look at AKC's total assets. We ended the 2018 year with \$162.7 million in total assets. This is within 1

million or less than 1 percent from 2017, despite the aforementioned challenging investment landscape of late 2018. Next on the other side of the balance sheet are total liabilities. Total liabilities have increased fairly significantly from 73 million at the end of 2017 to 110 at December 31, 2018. There was an increase to the total of accounts payable and accrued costs by \$5.7 million. Next an increase in our capital and deferred lease liabilities of just over \$7.6 million which relates to our relocation and newly leased space at 101 Park Avenue, along with our revitalization and renovation of our Raleigh, North Carolina, operations center. We've incurred a short-term line of credit for construction purposes of \$22.3 million which is entirely related to the build-out of 101 Park Avenue, including that of the first and third floor for the AKC Museum of the Dog. It's our expectation to relieve the credit line as we progress throughout the balance of 2019 and forward to 2020 as well. In review, overall, 2018 was a good year for The American Kennel Club. We had pivotal successful dealings and transactions that took place during the year, while we continued to move forward with operations and fulfilling our mission statement. We are excited about more success in 2019 ahead. Thank you to all for the courtesy and considerations this morning. The full presentation deck will be posted to the AKC Delegates Portal by the close of business tomorrow. Please feel to contact me with any additional questions or concerns as I will be pleased to discuss with you. May we all get home safely and have a great day.

The first vote was on the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Article VIII, Section 1, which would require that the Board in its appointment of the 5-member nominating committee include three Delegates that have each been selected by a Delegate Committee in accordance with the proposed new standing rule. The Board would be permitted to appoint only two of the five members. The amendment was proposed by the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois and unanimously disapproved by the AKC Board of Directors. The English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois demanded that this amendment go forward to the Delegates for a vote as per the AKC Bylaws.

There was a discussion as follows:

Sue Burgess, Delegate for the English Springer Spaniel Club Field Trial Association, spoke as follows:

Thank you. I am Sue Burgess, Delegate for the English Springer Spaniel Club Field Trial Association. David Hopkins could not be here at this meeting and he has asked me to read the following message from him. He says: Unfortunately, I cannot be at the Delegates meeting due a medical issue, so I cannot speak directly in support of my proposed amendments. He has asked me to read this statement and he has indicated that he's solely responsible for the content of the statement, not myself. It is as follows:

1. The goal of my proposal is twofold: To strengthen the process of the formation of the nominating committee each year and to improve confidence in such process.
2. The problem that has arisen, primarily in the last three years, in my opinion, is the increasing criticism to the effect that some recent appointees to our nominating committees have had an excessive predisposition in favor of particular candidates, especially favored by an incumbent director. Whether this is or is not a validity to such criticism is for each Delegate to decide. The existence of the criticism, though, is real, possibly demonstrated in terms of election results in 2016 when all nominating committee nominees were defeated. Number three – and this is the essence of David's statement, in my opinion.
3. There is simplicity to my proposal. In March, the coordinating committee would draw lot by lot three names of substantial Delegate committees. In June each of the three

randomly chosen committees would select one regular member of the new nominating committee. That's all. Otherwise, all of our existing rules and practices for the formation of the nominating committee would remain in place. The Board would appoint the other two regular members, the two alternates and the chair. 4. The proposed sharing of responsibility for forming the nominating committee sharing by the Delegate Body and by the Board is an approach that is not uncommon for not for profits. It is common in the legal community and it is the approach used effectively by the Springer Parent Club since 1993. 5. I respectfully submit that my proposed reform is a win-win-win one. It should be a win for directors by greatly reducing the conflict of interest that exists, a conflict that I used to think, until the last three years, had existed primarily on a theoretical plane. It should be a win for candidates and it would substantially free them from unfounded criticism. And it should be a win for the Delegates as my proposed reform ought to strengthen confidence in the overall nominating and election process. For the foregoing reasons, I urge your support for my proposed reform. In closing, I wish to note that I sure hope to be back in person at future Delegate meetings in light of modern science medicine and with some good luck I should be back. On a personal note, I would like to ask the Delegates to please carry good thoughts for David and prayers as he fights his current battle. Thank you.

Barbara Burns, Delegate for the Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club, spoke as follows: Can you explain from the Board's standpoint why you are against this proposal?

Carl Holder, Delegate for the Beaumont Kennel Club spoke as follows:

I don't see how one individual can explain why all the members of the Board voted in a particular manner because each person may have a different view as to why they voted in the manner they did.

Dr. Tom Davies, Vice Chairman and Delegate for the Springfield Kennel Club, spoke as follows:

In as much as there was much discussion in the boardroom and a consensus on the vote, on the opinion, I can attempt, Carl, to offer the Board's position. The current election process is nine months long. We spend two-thirds of our year potentially electioneering. This proposal will extend it even further, and it was felt by the Board that, if anything, the whole process should be shortened so that we can be about our collective work from the Delegate Body and from the Board of Directors.

Susan Sholar, Delegate for the Black Russian Terrier Club of America, spoke as follows:

Thank you, Tom. It would seem to me that if we're not happy with who the nominating committee pick, we have a tool already in place. We can support somebody else who also wishes to run for the Board. I've been asked to do that a few times and have been happy to do so. I personally see no purpose of this.

Ruth Naun, Delegate for the Border Terrier Club of America, spoke as follows:

I stand to speak against this motion, but I would like to say that I think it's a very healthy sign to look at the question of the process for selection of Board – of the process to make the selection for the Board. This particular measure does move the thrust of ownership directly to the Delegates from none to three, and I think that in itself is a rather extreme movement. But I think we live in a country and at a time when it's very good for an organization as healthy as the AKC is to look at the process by which this Delegate Body moves forward as a group to make a selection for the Board of the organization. So, with that much said, I'd like to take my seat and thank you.



Robert Eisele, Delegate for the Suffolk County Kennel Club, spoke as follows:  
I approach this, as I agree with the previous woman that mentioned that we have another option of just running from the floor and getting support. I've always kind of felt that the task of running for the Board is an overwhelming task that nobody is really going to try to take on by themselves. But having the support of a Delegate that's reappoint and having somebody come forth to a possible nomination is showing confidence in that person to come forth and run. So, you're not going to get people that are all going to try to get a petition. It's almost like there's a Democrat and a Republican, you have two-party support, and you go up. To run for a position like this, you need some sort of backing of encouragement. And I think this proposal – and I had no views whatsoever on this proposal until just now – helps support a process of encouraging people to run instead of trying to come forth to be through petition. I'm in support of the proposal.

Gretchen Bernardi, Delegate for the Mississippi Valley Kennel Club, spoke as follows:  
I'm speaking as chair of the Bylaws Committee because we have a rather troubled relationship with this particular amendment that some of you may know what that timeline was, but I'd like to explain it. When David first brought this to us, my committee – our committee has always felt that the nominating process needed repairing in some way. The committee generally supports doing away with the nominating committee anyway, because anyone can run by petition and it takes other influence out of that process, and we have supported that and have worked for that, but we didn't see any support for that in the committee – I mean, in the room I guess. And so, we originally approved this amendment because we thought it was better than the system we have now. At the next meeting we, in fact, rescinded that approval, and it's kind of complicated why we did it, but it was an overwhelming vote to rescind our approval. Having watched the latest season of the election process, I am personally – and I never voted in the committee – but I am personally inclined to vote for this because it does, in my opinion, minimize outside influence in the nominating process. Thank you.

Michael Knight, Delegate for the Texas Kennel Club, spoke as follows:  
I'm the current Chairman of this committee, and I wasn't going to say anything. However, when I got asked to be chair of this committee, I received no phone calls, no pressure from the Board, no one gave me any advice except Gina told me I could call her anytime. Dennis offered that I could call him. I tried to do it myself. They put five of us together. We didn't know each other. None of us knew each other. We came together as strangers. We left as either hopefully friends, at least acquaintances, and we had five great candidates to choose from. I sit on seven boards in my professional life and I have watched in all of these boards, in all these years, I've watched us choose people that are popular instead of people that have the skill to do the job. It's a history we all suffer from of putting up our friends instead of people that the board, whatever board that might be, need. This particular year for me, and I cannot speak to the other years of other chairmen in the room, we had – I'm nervous. Y'all are an intimidating group. Anyway, we had five great candidates. We could choose three. We tried to choose people that could do the job and had the skill of what the committee needed. The Board needed. I felt like we had five candidates that all had great skills but, again, we could choose three. We interviewed all of them. They all put their best foot forward. They all interviewed well, in our opinion. There was heavy discussion after everyone left. It seems like we would almost change our mind after each person left because every person that came in brought great skill to the table and we saw how we could utilize them. Again, there were

three positions to fill. I think we act as a filter to narrow down the process of how many people could apply. I would not vote for this, and I am probably the least informed of this procedure, but I would not vote for it because in my life as sitting on other boards, these people in these positions do filter down and get to the core people that we need. Hopefully we trust them to find the good people, not being influenced from any outside influence. We try to narrow down and choose the people to put forward to you to vote on. Instead of letting you choose from 50 people, hopefully we narrow down the best of the best and shorten the process. But again, just to reiterate, there was no pressure on our committee at all except to choose the best people that we could choose from. And we only chose from the people who put themselves forward. I just want to say that.

Marcy Zingler, Delegate for the Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, spoke as follows: I think that any committee formed to make choices is going to be subject to the same transgressions or successes that any other committee might be, whether it be the Board or an individual committee to select nominees. I have served on a nominating committee. What I think we might want to consider, rather than voting today, is some type of layered approach. Many nationals choose their judges or various other things by a layered approach. They allow anyone to be nominated or to self-nominate, depending on the environment, and then a committee, whether it, again, whether it be the Board or whether it be an appointed committee, takes the top however many – five, seven, whatever – and presents those candidates. I think a layered approach would reduce any of the problems that any single committee, however chosen, would approach

Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate for the Redwood Empire Kennel Club, spoke as follows: I'm past Chairman of the Nominating Committee and served on a previous Nominating Committee. During each time, we were not influenced by the board members at all, which is contrary to what a lot of people think. However, I think the process in which we go through, and if we had known a certain thing that we didn't know at the time on our nominating committee, that we could nominate more than the required vacancies on the Board, it would have helped us eliminate some sort of tension between some of the people who were not chosen for the Board, because we had quite a few. We had 12 people come before us. And I think it would have helped us because we had more than just three that we thought were very good, we had at least five. Or six. So, we could have – perhaps if we had known at the time that we could have brought more people forward during the nomination process, it would have helped our situation, and hopefully maybe we would not had been the only nominating committee that had no one voted that at least submitted any one member of the Board. Thank you.

Gretchen Bernardi, Delegate for the Mississippi Valley Kennel Club, spoke as follows: Again, speaking as Chair of the Bylaws Committee – and Johnny kind of stole my thunder – because I don't think many nominating committees have understood – and it was clarified to us yesterday – that you can – a nominating committee can nominate as many people as they want as long as they nominate enough to fill the open slots. And I was directed to – so this is a sneak preview – to write to the Board to have them be sure to tell upcoming nominating committees that that is possible for them to actually nominate as many as they choose so long as that spot – as those slots are filled. Thank you.

There was a standing vote where a two-thirds affirmative was not met, and the amendment did not pass.

The next vote was on the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club's Delegate Standing Rule on Committees, Section VI, which was to be voted on only if the previous amendment of the Charter and Bylaws was adopted. As it was not adopted, this proposed amendment was not voted on.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 4 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dog Affecting Eligibility.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 4 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dog Affecting Eligibility, which would only change the format of the section. 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 2019 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 12 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dog Affecting Eligibility.

Ms. DiNardo: This is amendment is to Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 12 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dog Affecting Eligibility, which would change the italicized portion of the section to be part of the rule. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and is brought forward and approved by 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 2019 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed to you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 13 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 13 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dog Affecting Eligibility, which would make the section gender neutral, changes the first two paragraphs of italics to become part of the rule and adds clarification. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and is brought forward and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you'll be asked to vote on it at the June 2019 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Chair of the Tellers Committee, Kim Johnson, of KPMG who read the results of the balloting for the Class of 2023.

The total number of ballots cast was 344. There was one invalid ballot that was counted toward the majority. Therefore, the majority to elect was 173. The results of the ballots were as follows: Karen Burgess 138. Dr. Thomas Davies 161. Dr. Charles Garvin 199. Steven Hamblin 172. Daniel Smyth 174.

The Chair declared that Dr. Charles Garvin and Daniel Smyth have been duly elected as members of the Class of 2023. He advised there was one remaining vacancy for the Class of 2023, and the Delegate Body would proceed with another ballot.

[There was a brief recess as the Delegates cast their second ballots.]

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 14, Section 8 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of Class or Division of Class Cancellations of Awards.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 14, Section 8, Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of Class or Division of Class Cancellation of Awards which would only reword the section. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. It is brought forward and approved by 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 2019 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

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

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 16, Section 6 – Championships would change the italicized sentence to be part of the rule. This amendment is proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. It is brought forward and approved by 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 2019 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers, Chapter 14, Section 4.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers, Chapter 14, Section 4, which would end the possibility for dogs to run as the first dog of a series more than once at the same stake at the same trial. This amendment is brought forward by Retriever Field Trial Committee. It is approved by 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 2019 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the next quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. The Conference and Travel Department will post the information on the Delegates Portal when the block of rooms becomes available. The Chair reminded the Board to meet immediately following this meeting in the Salem-Warren Room. He instructed that lunch would be served immediately following the meeting.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business as follows:

Ann Cook, Delegate, Siberian Husky Club of America:

Ann issued a fun challenge between the Siberian Husky Club of America and fellow Delegate Anne Bowes representing the Ladies' Dog Club, to see which had more members in the Delegate Body. The Ladies' Dog Club reported nine (9). The Siberian Husky Club of America reported a total of ten (10).

Tom Powers, Board Member and Delegate, Kennel Club of Beverly Hills:  
Tom provided a program announcement for his club All-Breed Show which was taped by NBC Sports. He encouraged the Delegates to tune in to NBC on Easter Sunday, 1 p.m. in the East, 10 a.m. in the West.

Kathy Gregory, Delegate, Port Chester Obedience Training Club of New York:  
Kathy admitted that she was so shocked to be one of the three recipients of the AKC Visionary Awards given out at the December meeting, that she did not get out of her chair to get the award. She thanked the AKC for the honor and asked for a photo with Mr. Sprung.

Betty Winthers, Delegate, Olympic Kennel Club:  
Betty proudly shared with the Delegate Body that this August is her club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary show and that they are looking forward to that celebration. She was also pleased to inform everyone that a Papillon won Best in Show at Crufts. [Applause]

Gail LaBerge, Delegate, Atlanta Obedience Club:  
Gail spoke as the Chair of the AKC PAC Board. She advised of exciting news in the upcoming months – and reminded Delegates to make their monthly donation at [AKC.org/pac](http://AKC.org/pac). – noting that the money benefits the group with an understanding of what is happening in the legislative world. She added a personal comment about the AKC Museum of the Dog being featured in Delta's *Sky* magazine that read, "Speaking of best friends, the AKC Museum of the Dog opened last month bringing to New York City a mix of K-9 fine art and interactive exhibits." She commended the AKC PR department for great work surrounding the museum opening.

Don James, Delegate, Leonberger Club of America:  
Don congratulated the Leonberger volunteers for winning Best Booth in Show at the AKC Meet the Breeds® event during Westminster in February. He also noted the important achievement of the Leonberger Health Foundation with a \$50,000 contribution to the CHF for the study of hemangiosarcoma.

Pat Laurans, Delegate, German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America:  
Pat spoke for AKC Pet Disaster Trailers, with an update. As of March 1, 2019, 410 clubs have participated. \$1,916,251 in donations have been received from clubs and individuals. \$450,000 was funded by AKC Reunite. Total funds raised thus far \$2,366,251. She acknowledged Harry Booker, Delegate from the Philadelphia Kennel Club whose club awarded \$100,000 to three different organizations. They have funded \$100,000 to the AKC Pet Disaster Relief Fund, \$100,000 to Canine Health Foundation, and \$100,000 to *Take The Lead*.  
[Applause]

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Delegate, Richmond Dog Fanciers:  
Jan thanked all the Parent Clubs, Dennis Sprung, Gina DiNardo and Amy Hamernick for the wonderful Meet the Breeds® at Westminster event, explaining that great accolades are deserved for connecting with the public there in such a substantial way. She spoke as the President of the American Fox Terrier Club, that her booth was fortunate to win for the Terrier group, (and joked) not quite as fortunate as Mr. James in going Best in Show.

Michael Houchard, Delegate, Conyers Kennel Club:

Michael expressed thanks and congratulations to the Board and AKC Staff for the Delegate Museum event the previous evening and remarked that he was impressed with the institution.

Barbara Gates, Delegate, English Springer Spaniel Club of Michigan:

Barbara announced that in 2019, her Club would be celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> year, having been incorporated in the state of Michigan in Lansing January 28, 1938. The Club is interested in having a big show in September.

Roberta Berman, Delegate, American Manchester Terrier Club:

Roberta spoke for the Staten Island Companion Dog Training Club, to thank the AKC for the beautiful video that was made for one their junior handlers, Steve Reese. She added that he was no longer a junior since he was now in college, and had never been in a breed ring, but that his dogs participated in Obedience, Agility, Therapy, and Trick Dog.

Dick Blair, Delegate, Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club:

Dick reminded the Delegates he needed more volunteers to become Delegate mentors. He explained that their interests and involvement in the dog fancy would be matched with those of new Delegates, by completing a form that he had on hand at the meeting. Delegates were asked to request the form from him and return it to him that day.

Anne Bowes, Delegate, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America:

Anne responded representing Ladies' Dog Club, to the earlier challenge by Ann Cook of the Siberian Husky Club of America. She advised that her club performed a recount with the result of 10 women Delegates within the Delegate Body.

[Lunch recess initiated]

The Chair called on the Chair of the Tellers Committee, Kim Johnson, of KPMG who read the results of the second ballot for the Class of 2023.

Ms. Johnson: The total number of votes cast was 342. There was one invalid ballot that did count toward the majority, therefore, the majority to elect was 172. The results of the ballots were as follows: Karen Burgess 54. Dr. Thomas Davies 140. Steven Hamblin 147.

The Chair announced that no candidate received the majority, so the Delegate Body would proceed with the next ballot to elect one.

Karen Burgess withdrew from consideration.

[There was a recess and the Delegates cast their third ballot]

Mr. Sprung invited the Delegates to break for lunch.

[Lunch recess 11:18 a.m.]

The Chair called on a member of the Tellers Committee, Ernest Obubah, of KPMG who read the results of the third ballot for the Class of 2023.

Mr. Obubah: The total number of ballots cast was 307. There were two invalid ballots that were counted toward the majority. Therefore, the majority to elect was 155. The results of the ballots were as follows: Dr. Thomas Davies 147. Steven Hamblin 158.

The Chair declared that Steven Hamblin has been duly elected as a member of the Class of 2023.

[Meeting adjourned: 11:45 a.m.]

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