

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Delegates Meeting
September 12, 2017

Dennis Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

The first order of business was the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.
(There was a recess for Voting)

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dais: Vice Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies; Joan Corbisiero the Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and Todd DeSimone, the Court Reporter.

The Chair informed the Delegates of the passing of Janice Gardner on September 3rd. She was the Delegate for Rockingham County Kennel Club since March 1981.

The Executive Secretary read the names of the Delegates seated since the June meeting:
Connie Brunell, to represent Inland Empire Kennel Association
Richard J. LeBeau, to represent English Toy Spaniel Club of America
Beverly H. Conroy, to represent Obedience Training Club of Hawaii
Sally Koepke, to represent Buckeye Retriever Club
Edward F. Lyons Jr., to represent South Windsor Kennel Club
Frank Meister, to represent Pacific Coast Pekingese Club
Aubrey Nash, to represent Town and Country Kennel Club
Betty Jo Patrick, to represent Kachina Kennel Club
Nancy J. Perrell, to represent Superstition Kennel Club
Diane Ramsey, to represent Schipperke Club of America
Amy J. Schwoeble, to represent Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America
Melanie S. Steele, to represent Abilene Kennel Club
Sharon Weston, to represent Rogue Valley Kennel Club

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

Katheen Bencin to represent Western Reserve Kennel Club
Gregory Benkiser to represent Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia
Dr. Karen M. Ericson to represent Whidbey Island Kennel Club
Edward Lyons to represent South Windsor Kennel Club
Frank Meister to represent Pacific Coast Pekingese Club
Diane Ramsey to represent Schipperke Kennel Club
Melanie Steel to represent Abilene Kennel Club
Michael Zarlina to represent American Water Spaniel Club

[The Chairman's Report follows the transcript of this meeting.]

The minutes of the June 2017 Delegates meeting were published in the July 2017 *AKC Gazette* and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

The President gave his report as follows:

Please rise for a moment of silence in memory of 9/11 and those who lost their lives.
(Moment of silence.)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. I ask that we each remember our fortune to live in this great country with so many blessings. We remain especially grateful for the gift of the purebred dog in our lives, both at home and at events, as well as the countless moments of happiness and fulfillment they give us as we strive for the betterment of each breed as responsible breeders and owners. God bless America.

We just experienced several natural disasters: Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and the fires in Southern California. I ask AKC Reunite Chairman Alan Kalter to update us on the multiple efforts already achieved as well as the future initiatives.

Mr. Kalter spoke as follows:

Thank you, Dennis. Good morning, fellow Delegates. It has been said that the worst of times can bring out the best in people, and certainly given the response that we have had to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the wildfires out west, that is certainly true of the AKC family. The AKC community was there before with our donated pet disaster relief trailers. We stepped up with donations during and after and we will continue to be there to help during the recovery. Heartfelt thank yous to all who joined in to contribute to the recovery. Special thanks to Barbara and Bob Amen, the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America Charitable Trust, the Shih Tzu Club Charitable Trust, Assisi Animal Health, and the Retriever Master National Club Foundation. Through their efforts and the open hearts of 120 AKC clubs and 1,250 individuals, we have raised nearly a quarter of a million dollars to date. The AKC Humane Fund in addition donated \$10,000 to the Houston Hurricane Relief Fund and donated an AKC pet disaster relief trailer to Houston. Up until that time Houston didn't have one. Speaking of the trailers, so far we have raised, through the good efforts of all those involved, and a tip of the hat to Pat Laurans, \$1.6 million for trailers. We actually have 63 trailers currently in the field and there are six more in the pipeline. There were a number of trailers that were deployed during the disasters to Texas and the wildfires. In fact, one trailer actually went from Tennessee all the way to Texas in order to help out. AKC Reunite is putting your donations to good use. So far, \$70,000 of your donations have already been given to the shelters that need both to be rebuilt and to house the enormous number of dogs and other animals that are in the shelters currently. We were able to work with shelters to extend the waiting period, it is normally a lot shorter, and they have all agreed to a 30-day waiting period before they move to a next step with adopting out any dogs that were found during the disasters. We will continue to keep you updated on all of the efforts to help in Texas and Florida. Looking forward, President Sprung has established a working task force, including AKC, AKC CHF, the Humane Fund, and AKC Reunite staff in order to develop a cross-functional disaster plan. Given that disasters are now coming in multiples at one time instead of one offs, AKC Reunite has a fund that will help, but is not constrained by a specific disaster. It is called the AKC Reunite Pet Disaster Relief Fund and it is currently live on the akcreunite.org website. If you hit the donate button and scroll down, and you will find that is an option, and of course, like the Hurricane Harvey donations, any donation made to the Reunite Pet Disaster Relief Fund is free of any fees, so 100 percent of your donation goes to help. Finally, I would like to say a big thank you, again, to all of you and your clubs for proving that when you really care, enough you can make a big difference. Thank you.

Joseph Baffuto, AKC Chief Financial Officer, gave his Report as follows:

Good Morning Everyone! Thank you so very much for attending the meeting here today! Please know that although we are here briefly discussing the financial performance of The American Kennel Club through July 31st, the reality is that our hearts, our thoughts

and our prayers are with all the families and friends, that have been affected by the recent tragic hurricanes, Harvey and Irma. We will work hard to support all the recovery in those areas. Let's begin by examining our year-to-date summary of results. Total revenue of \$41.5 million has been offset by total expenses of \$36.8 million, which reflects an operating income of \$4.7 million which is reasonably above the comparative operating income of \$4.0 million at the same time last year. Let's take a deeper dive into the details. In our comparison of year to date revenue, we are up by \$3.8 million dollars! This is an overall 10% increase!!

What areas have been our most successful to-date? Let's examine further along in our revenue programs. Our top revenue increases by dollar amounts include Registrations including our Litters, Dogs, and Pedigrees, amounting to \$1.2 million, representing a 6% increase over 2016. Next, additional revenues in our Growth Group – which includes Marketplace, Ecommerce, Digital Advertising, and Royalties and Sponsorships – up by \$1.9 million or 40% growth year over year. Our Events area, in particular our Recording and Events Fees overall have increased by 3% or \$227,000. Lastly, our year to date interest and dividend income has increased by just over \$100,000 or approximately, 20%. Taking a year over year comparative analysis of our Core Registration Volumes, we can really see our outstanding successes for 2017.

Our Litter Volume for the year so far is 140,000 an increase of 7%. Our Dog Registrations are currently at 335,000 which is also 7% above the 7 month period in 2016. Total Pedigrees are 151,000 which represents a 4% year over year increase. On the other side of our income statement, we will begin a brief analysis of year to date costs. We have recorded a grand total of \$36.8 million dollars in expenses. This is an overall increase from 2016 of \$3.1 million dollars or 9%. Where did the increases specifically arrive from? Payroll and benefits are up by \$2.8 million, or 17% as our full time equivalent headcount has increased from 292 to 317.5 over the last 12 months. Our technology and marketing teams have benefitted the most from these human capital resource investments. In addition, we have had an increase in Consulting costs by \$300,000, which can be mainly accounted for in our relocation preparations and due diligence. In addition to our results from operations, next we can provide some details on the success of our Investment portfolio through the first seven months of our fiscal year. Our investments have yielded a 7% unrealized gain this year. These gains equate out to a \$7.3 million dollar increase to our investment balances. Our relative benchmark for our portfolio during the comparative period was 7.2%, so we are within less than 20 basis points of being right on target with our allocated portfolio. The non-consolidated Balance Sheet of the AKC at July 31, 2017 reflects \$155.7 million dollars in Total Assets. Our Cash and Investment balances total more than 87% of these Total Assets. This is the core of the financial strength of the AKC. Our total liabilities recorded are \$69.7 million. Almost 90% of our liabilities lie within our long-term pension and post-retirement benefit obligations. Our net Assets of \$86.0 million dollars have increased by 14% since July of last year.

We're doing well in our core programs, while we continue to showcase growth in our non-core activities and the financial markets continue to maintain their strength. All of these factors are combining to provide our successful financial performance. In closing, I ask all of us to Stay Safe and Take Care of the ones we love and always cherish the special bond that we have with our dogs! Please feel free to reach out to me after the meeting concludes, I will be available. Have a wonderful afternoon!

There was a vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championships*. This amendment would include the dog awarded Select Dog or Bitch in the calculation of Grand Championship points for that

award. This proposal was brought forward by the AKC Board of Directors based on a Staff recommendation. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

There was a vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 22-A, new paragraph, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds*. The new paragraph would allow for a National Gun Dog Championship for Gordon Setters. The event is limited to walking handlers. The amendment was proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America and was brought forward with a positive recommendation from the Board of Directors. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The final vote was on the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 8-A, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility. This amendment would require permanent identification for a dog that is disqualified if it is ever to be considered for reinstatement. Reinstatement would be conducted by AKC staff. Judges would not participate in the process. No reinstatement procedure would take place on the grounds of, or in any building, hotel or venue connected to a dog show or event. The name, AKC number and owner's contact information would be conveyed to the show superintendent. The amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. The AKC Board of Directors unanimously disapproved the amendment. The Dog Show Rules Committee requested that this amendment go forward to the Delegates for a vote, as per the AKC Bylaws.

The Chair recognized Sue Goldberg, Delegate for the Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club and Chair of the DQ Reinstatement Committee spoke as follows:
I respectfully move that we withdraw the amendment of Chapter 11, Section 8-A, because after speaking with the Parliamentarian, the enhancements that our committee voted yesterday to add today to benefit dogs, people, and the fancy at large, are not within the scope of what's been noticed to the Delegates. In order to provide a comprehensive amendment, we will resubmit to the Board. We thank you for your understanding and look forward to your approval.

The majority of the Delegates voted to withdraw the amendment to Chapter 11, Section 8-A of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to recognize AKC Delegates who have served for 25 years as well as three member clubs celebrating their centennial. Ms. DiNardo spoke as follows:

We will now honor Delegates who have served for 25 years. This is the 19th time that AKC has had the privilege to present Delegate medallions. The medallion is in recognition of meritorious and long-term contributions to the Sport. This program enables us to recognize our core constituency and allows a grateful American Kennel Club the opportunity to honor our own. The following four Delegates have served in this body for 25 years, and join the 110 previously honored Delegates.

Will the following Delegates please come forward: David Michael Powers, Los Encinos Kennel Club; William A. Russett, Richland County Kennel Club; Alexa Samarotto, Bronx County Kennel Club and Ida Ellen Weinstock, Montgomery Kennel Club.

Please join me in congratulating the honorees.

(Applause)

Ms. DiNardo: I would now like to announce those clubs celebrating 100 years of membership in the American Kennel Club. The following three clubs are celebrating 100 years of membership: Cairn Terrier Club of America, Pam Davis, Delegate; Pacific Coast Pekingese Club, Frank Meister, Delegate and Western Reserve Kennel Club, Kathleen Bencin, Delegate.
(Applause)

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to give a report on the Nominating Committee. Ms. DiNardo spoke as follows:

The next item is a report on the appointments to the Nominating Committee. At the July meeting, the Board of Directors appointed the following Delegates to the Nominating Committee to select three candidates for the Class of 2022 and one for the Class of 2019. John J. Cadalso, Jr., Chair, Delegate for the Troy Kennel Club; Lee Arnold, Delegate for the Southern Colorado Kennel Club; Terrie Breen, Delegate for the Farmington Valley Kennel Club; Katie Campbell, Delegate for the Basenji Club of America; Cindy Stansell, Delegate for the Finnish Spitz Club of America. Alternates: Catherine Murch, Delegate for the Newton Kennel Club and Maggi Strouse, Delegate for the National Shiba Club.

I now call on John Cadalso, Jr. to address the Delegates.

Mr. Cadalso: Good morning. I'm Jack Cadalso of the Troy Kennel Club, Troy, New York. Nominating Committee has been busy for the past month reviewing the questionnaires as submitted by the Delegate candidates. Yesterday we had five face-to-face interviews and we have a number scheduled for today. The deadline for our report is October 15th and we plan on meeting that deadline. We are also aware that Delegates can run from the floor and therefore bypass the interview process, so we trust that people will be mindful of that when they cast their ballots. Thank you.

The Chair called on Jim Dok to give an update on AKC PAC. Mr. Dok spoke as follows: Thank you very much. Just very briefly, we are going into our fourth quarter when about 90 percent of our donations come in. We appreciate that. I want to make special thanks to the few Delegates who sent me an e-mail after the last Delegate meeting saying they had reached out to their club. Thank you for doing that. Let's be patrons in this fourth quarter. Thank you very much.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the next meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel on Friday, December 15th, 2017. Delegates should use the code that was sent to them when making reservations at the hotel.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Carl Ashby, Delegate for the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, wanted to take the opportunity to remind Delegates about the All-Breed Advisory Committee. Mr. Ashby impressed on the Delegates that while there is good expertise available, the Committee is having a very difficult time getting All-Breed Clubs to take advantage of it. In addition to Mr. Ashby, the Committee consists of Tom Davies, Ann Wallin, and Larry LeBeau, with support from AKC staff such as Glenn Lycan and Guy Fisher. He urged the Delegates to have their clubs take advantage of the committee's expertise and years of experience putting on dog shows.

Steven Hamblin, Delegate for the Pekingese Club of America, expressed his club's concern that potential judges can accumulate educational credits that would lead to judging approval without ever having actually physically examined a dog. Mr. Hamblin read the following statement from his club:

The Pekingese Club of America would like to request that the AKC continue and require hands-on education for judge approval in Pekingese. The unique conformation of Pekingese requires a hands-on education for proper evaluation.

Mr. Sprung noted that the Chairman appointed a committee to address the judging approval process. That committee has already met several times and will continue to do so.

Sylvia Thomas, Delegate for Kennel Club of Riverside, and assistant editor of *Perspectives*, thanked the many Delegates who contributed to the current issue of *Perspectives* that features 21 articles ranging in topics from detection dogs, scent dogs, how to build a club archive, breed sustainability, legislative conferences, war dogs, as well as many other subjects. The coordinator for the December issue is Ginny Denninger. Ms. Thomas encouraged Delegates to write an article.

Barbara Shaw, Delegate for Greater Collin Kennel Club, spoke about the generous help provided by Greater Collin Kennel Club, Texas Kennel Club and Trinity Valley Kennel Club, along with the Labrador Retriever Club of America, Fort Worth Kennel Club, and with AKC Reunite trailers in North Texas following the hurricane. She spoke specifically about the trailer from the Dallas/Collin County metroplex area, deployed from the Tri-City Animal Shelter in Cedar Hill. It proved to be a truly mobile pet disaster trailer travelling from Dallas to Irving to Port Arthur. Port Arthur serves the complete western side of coastal Louisiana and the southeastern side of Texas.

Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate for the Charleston Kennel Club, noted the absence of Chairman of the Board Ron Menaker. She knew he lives in Florida and asked for an update on how he was.

The Chair told her that Mr. Menaker was driving north to the meeting. Got to Georgia but was unable to proceed, but that he was fine.

David Michael Powers, Delegate for Los Encinos Kennel Club, spoke about articles in the dog press about the Link collar and the pet day care. He asked if the Delegates would be provided with further financial information.

(The Chair informed the Delegate Body that an email would be sent out with the Chairman's Report and an update on our affiliates and our LLCs.)

Mr. Powers further added that he had concerns about contributions made by American Kennel Club PAC in the last election. He noticed that of the 59 who ran for office and received money from us, 16 were Democrats, 43 were Republicans and 35 of those 43 were from what he would consider the deep south. He cautioned that we should take a deeper look before we donate money.

Betty Winthers, Delegate for the Olympic Kennel Club, wanted to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate her club and to read the following statement: Olympic Kennel Club has joined the elite group that has donated more than \$100,000 to the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington. Thanks to the exceptional generosity of the Olympic Kennel Club, WSU College of Veterinary Medicine can stay committed to delivering world-class

education and research, exceptional programs and student scholarships. Olympic Kennel Club thanks all the specialties and exhibitors that make our annual show a success that allow us to share our extra revenues with the academic and research program at WSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

Ms. Winthers expressed her wish for a platform in which clubs could exchange this type of positive information.

Julian Prager, Delegate for Central Florida Kennel Club, spoke as follows:

I would like to bring forward some information that Sheila Goffe [Vice President, Government Relations] shared with us this morning at the Legislative Caucus. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has asked for comments on the Animal Welfare Act to try to reduce burdens on people, and one of the issues that we all have is that the Animal Welfare Act defines a breeding female as any female who is capable of breeding, and we know that that does not make any sense. Sheila will be preparing comments from the AKC. If you want to give her your comments, you can use their form on the website or you can e-mail her at doglaw@akc.org and you can also send in individual comments. You can take a look at what AFIS is looking to do at regulations.gov and it is important that if we can change this to reduce the burden that we have, that we do so. Thank you.

Barbara Mann, Delegate for Dayton Dog Training Club Thanked Mr. Sprung and AKC staff for meeting and deciding that in future, proposed changes to Companion Regulations will be sent to the Companion Events Committee. Secondly, she wanted to know how people could get their own AKC "I'm proud to own a purebred dog" T-Shirts. Mr. Sprung advised that they were available on the AKC website at the AKC store.

Frances Stephens, Delegate for the Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, wanted to share what her club did at the Washington State Fair, which is one of the top-ten state fairs in the country. The Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers sponsored a meet the breeds type event there and opened it up to other specialty clubs and reliable breeders. The St. Bernard Club of Puget Sound was there for all four days of the event. Approximately 250,000 people attended the club's breed fair. Their target market were families with young children and older adults. Ms. Mann urged Delegates to plan a little breed fair at their local mall, in their towns and in their counties.

Thomas Pincus, Delegate for Houston Kennel Club, wanted to thank all of the members, the clubs, the individuals, and the American Kennel Club Executive Staff for providing disaster trailers, and for the incredible support and money focusing on the recovery in southeast Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Pincus also gave a special thank you to Dennis Sprung for following up personally.

Robert Amen, Delegate for the Greater St. Louis Training Club, wanted to bring to the Delegates' attention a development that has taken place in the obedience community that may help to offset the decline in obedience entries. The AKC has received a number of concerned exhibitor letters and complaints about group stays. In novice and open, we have novice stays with a one-minute sit, three-minute down, and handler across the ring. In open, the dog must sit for three minutes in a lineup of up to nine dogs, a sit and a down for five minutes with the handler out of sight. This led to some instances of dog on dog attacks, and occasionally, dog on person attacks.

In January of this year, AKC received a petition allegedly signed by 3,000 individuals stating sits and downs, especially the open sits and downs, should be reevaluated. Part of this stems from safety issues, especially amongst small dog owners who are

competing against large dogs in a lineup where their handlers are on the other side of the venue.

Staff assembled a five-person task force to review the situation. The task force was able to come up with exercises that Mr. Amen thought would effectively replace the exercise of the open exercise group stays where the handlers are out of sight. The Companion Events Committee has approved the basic concept and if the AKC Board approves these new exercises, we will be able to attract more exhibitors into novice and who hopefully will move on to open without the worry of safety being an issue.

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Delegate for Richmond Dog Fanciers, wanted to thank all of the Delegates, Staff, the Board, for the outpouring of support upon the death of her late husband, Steven Gladstone, of Waterloo Kennel Club and the Board of Directors. She also thanked the AKC for reaching out to the people in Texas, and for what would be done in Florida in the wake of hurricane Irma.

Sharon Steckler, Delegate for American Boxer Club, spoke about her pride in being able to participate in the various challenges to support Texans recovering from Hurricane Harvey. She feels that while Texas is tough and Houston is strong, they couldn't begin to recover without the help of AKC and their Executive leadership.

Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate for the Redwood Empire Kennel Club, urged Delegates to help grow the Pee Wee program and spoke about the rewards of mentoring these children as well as how the number of clubs participating continues to increase.

Gail LaBerge, Delegate for Atlanta Obedience Club, spoke as follows:

I'm also a founding member of the AKC PAC Board where I still serve and I would like to address the comment earlier. A PAC is a political action committee. It is formed for one purpose and that is to move forward one particular point of view. In our case it is to move forward the AKC's Government Relations Department and each of us who fight daily for our legislative rights in the legislative body. We do not look at party affiliation. We are strictly focused on their particular position on canine issues. So those who donate to the PAC have the privilege of nominating people in their state who they feel meet the criteria and should receive a donation from the PAC. We certainly take that seriously and I can only think of one instance that we turned down a request and that state's federation came back and said we made a mistake, do not give to this person, who was supported by HSUS. So that is how a PAC works. We are not looking at any other issues but strictly how they can help us either in Congress or in that particular state on a canine legislative issue. Our money usually gets bundled in states where we have serious problems. A lot of money has gone into California over the years. But, again, any questions, any of us on the PAC board, Jim Dok, who is our current chairman, we will be happy to answer them and work with you because, trust me, we need your money.

Harvey Goldberg, Delegate for Somerset County Kennel Club, spoke about his club being an early adopter of the Pee Wee event and that, as Johnny Shoemaker pointed out, has been highly successful. He also spoke about an initiative his wife, Sue came up with to get apprentice stewards in the ring, which their board has adopted. This was a big success at a recent show with a number of juniors participating as apprentice stewards. He encouraged the Delegates to bring this to their clubs because it is another way to bring young people into the sport.

Melinda Vogt, Delegate for Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club, said that in order to get new members to the sport, her club participated in the AKC Girl Scout Badges Program. They hosted 20 Girl Scouts at a recent show. It was wonderful to have kids at a show again, and she hoped to get some juniors and younger families to help out.

Pat Laurans, Delegate for German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America thanked the AKC Reunite staff for working around the clock, making phone calls from their homes at night, and by writing e-mails, sometimes at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. She also wanted to thank whoever came up with the plan to have 100 percent of the money that came in for any item in the AKC store pertaining to Texas or the south, given to help the recovery effort. She thanked the AKC Humane Fund and AKC Reunite for presenting two trailers for Houston, but most of all for the fact that all of the \$250,000 raised is going directly to relief services.

Virginia Denninger, Delegate for Genesee Valley Kennel Club, reiterated that she is the coeditor for the next issue of *Perspectives* and invited all the Delegates to think about contributing an article.

Michael Houchard, Delegate for Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia, reminded the Delegates that on September 24th in Atlanta there would be regional legislative conference and that information was at the Government Relations table outside the meeting room.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.
(Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.)

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

SEPTEMBER 2017 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the American Kennel Club, our love of dogs knows no bounds, and our educational mission compels us to share our passion as broadly as possible. Reimagining the AKC Museum of the Dog in its original home in New York City is an exciting opportunity for us to introduce the wonders of the purebred dog to more people than ever before.

In 2018, work will begin on a new headquarters for the American Kennel Club at 101 Park Avenue opposite Grand Central Station, a prime location for tourists, visitors and commuters traveling to and from all parts of New York City and beyond. The AKC Museum of the Dog will occupy the first two levels of this imposing class-A building, including the ground floor, and will be a beacon that welcomes the world to America's greatest resource for and about dogs.

Building upon thirty wonderful years in the beautiful Jarville House in Queeny Park near St. Louis, the Museum's mission will remain a guiding light, even in its future home: the collection, preservation, exhibition and interpretation of the art, artifacts and literature of the dog for purposes of education, historical perspective, aesthetic enjoyment and enhancement of the human-canine relationship.

In this next phase of the Museum's growth, a new vision will shape its objectives and activities. The AKC Museum of the Dog will celebrate dogs and their inspiring bond with mankind through its collections, dynamic exhibits and interactive content. The incredible response to events like AKC Meet the Breeds has shown us the value of and public demand for "edutainment" experiences. The new space aims to meet that need while showcasing the treasures of our fancy's heritage. Certainly the Museum will feature AKC's collections of fine art, artifacts and books – broadly recognized as one of the most important resources of its kind. Dog fanciers and clubs will be pleased to find the AKC Library and Archives situated within the Museum as an important vehicle for research and learning. Displays will strike a balance by including both classic and contemporary works to align with interpretive themes. Our objective is that this new learning center will transcend the typical "time capsule" effect of many museums by featuring a vast range of captivating and interactive topics relating to dogs and AKC.

Our research has also confirmed that the Museum must serve a broad audience well beyond our core. A central location in one of the world's leading cultural capitals will allow us to do just that. The Museum will follow a mandate to welcome and serve everyone with an interest in dogs, educate as many people as possible about the joys of the human-canine bond and responsible pet ownership, and promote the AKC's history and mission. With this fresh approach, the Museum will become *the destination* for people from all over the world to appreciate and gain a deeper understanding of purebred dogs. A member of our planning committee summarized the goal: *"Everyone should come away fascinated and saying 'I love dogs.'"*

With a lease recently signed, initial plans for the build-out of the Museum and AKC's offices are now underway. There will be many opportunities to support the new AKC Museum of the Dog in the months ahead. Look for additional updates throughout the year about ways to get involved as a donor, member, volunteer and more.

