

**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**  
**Delegates Meeting**  
**June 12, 2018**

Dennis Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The Chair introduced the persons seated next to him on the dais: Chairman, Ron Menaker; Vice Chairman, Tom Davies; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; and Todd DeSimone, the Court Reporter.

The Chair reported the passing of James W. Smith who died on April 5th. He was a former Chairman of the Board, the 2012 Breeder of the Year, and Delegate for the Dalmatian Club of America from March 1986 to April 2012, and then for Washington State Obedience Training Club from April 2012.

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

Gloria Askins, to represent Greenville Kennel Club  
Pamela Beale, to represent Westchester Kennel Club  
Jack Cadalso, to represent Washington State Obedience Dog Training Club  
Gale K. Cummings, to represent Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.  
Kate DeSanto, to represent American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association  
Linda C. Foiles, to represent Tibetan Spaniel Club of America  
Jacque E. Glenn, to represent Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America  
Cindy Miller, to represent Waterloo Kennel Club  
Jeffrey M. Margeson, to represent United States Australian Shepherd Association  
Sandra Muer, to represent Corn Belt Kennel Club  
Linda Pheasant, to represent Heartland Dog Club of America  
Janet Rivers, to represent Lexington Kennel Club  
Robert Rynkiewicz, to represent Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club

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

Gale Cummings to represent Ladies' Dog Club  
Jacque E. Glenn to represent Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America  
Robert Rynkiewicz to represent Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club  
Elizabeth Faber to represent Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club  
Donna Smiley to represent Harrier Club of America  
Susan Werner to represent Middleburg Kennel Club  
Sherry Harman to represent James River Kennel Club  
Jeffrey Margeson to represent United States Australian Shepherd Association  
Judith Ann Smith to represent Doberman Pinscher Club of America  
Cindy Miller to represent Waterloo Kennel Club  
Greg Smith to represent Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri  
Gloria Askins to represent Greenville Kennel Club  
Pamela Beale to represent Westchester Kennel Club  
Linda Foiles to represent Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

The minutes of the March 2018 Delegates meeting which were published in the April 2018 Gazette were adopted.

The American Sloughi Association and the United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club were duly elected a member of the American Kennel Club.

The June 2018 Chairman's report was posted on AKC.org.

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

I would like to thank the Board and Staff, the Delegates and club members for the success of Sunday's Educational Summit. Mari-Beth, Doug, Paula, Anita, Leslie, Ashley and each presenter, your leadership educated the attendees for the betterment of shows. We are most appreciative and we congratulate you. For those that did not have an opportunity to attend, it will be on AKC.TV as well as on AKC's website. Sports are a mission-driven function for the American Kennel Club. In the interests of sharing information with you about this important area, Executive Vice President Doug Ljungren will provide us a presentation entitled State of the Sports - 2018 Initiatives.

Mr. Ljungren: Thank you, Dennis. This is an abbreviated version of a presentation that the Board and Event Staff gives to the Board in April. It is a very worthwhile discussion where we look back at the previous year, what were the trends in the sports, and then we discuss with the Board our current initiatives. I think it is a very worthwhile meeting. There is a lot of give and take. This whole presentation in its entirety takes quite a long time. This is an abbreviated version which the major concentration today being on conformation. Sports and events is a mission-driven activity for the AKC and no one does it bigger than we do. We have 25 different sports that AKC manages itself, 20,000 events a year. That's a big number. You might be able to grasp it a little bit easier that every weekend, on average, there is 400 AKC events going on around the country, 3.1 million entries in total in a year. This graph shows the year over year change in entries in conformation. This is obviously a concern for all of us. It was in 2004 that conformation lost entries and it has lost entries every year since. So, for 14 straight years conformation has been shrinking. The number one observation is this is not a short-term phenomenon, and, number two, you can see a big dip in 2008 where the sport lost an unimaginable 120,000 entries in one year. The lesson learned is we are not recession-proof. When push comes to shove, this is something that a person can stop doing if they are short on resources. In 2016 we came the closest that we have been since 2004 to breaking even, so to speak. We were very hopeful that 2017 would push us across the line and we would actually see some growth. However, just about a year ago, the canine influenza virus hit the sports particularly in some regions of the country and really hurt our entries. We lost about 24,000 entries, as close as we can tell, due to people staying home out of concern about the virus. May year to date we are down 0.6 percent in our entries for conformation. So, we are getting close. Last year, in total, the sport was down 2 percent. We are moving in the right direction but we are not above water yet. This shows obedience. Obedience has been going down pretty steadily for five straight years, about a 3 percent decline a year, or 4,000 to 5,000 entries a year. Last year this sport went through a very major issue that it tackled and that was changes in the group exercises. If you are familiar with the sport, you know the debate was quite intense last summer and early fall. A lot of well-intentioned people had quite a difference of opinion on what to do with the group exercises. In the end, the decision was made to change the group exercises, not an easy decision for the sport, but that was the decision. Those new group exercises went into effect May 1st. If you are an all-breed club that is considering the future of obedience at your event, my suggestion is hang on, this sport may be going thru a transition. This shows our CGC program which has been very

successful over a long period of time. When we made CGC a title in 2013 that really boosted the growth. It has been in an upward trend ever since. 2017 experienced a 10 percent growth. This activity is this summer the 1 millionth dog will have passed the CGC test, a real landmark for this activity. This shows the trends in what I have called our traditional performance events. This is the purpose in purpose-bred dogs. These are our field trials, hunting tests, earthdog, lure coursing and herding events. They have been on a downward trend of about 0.6 per year over the last decade. All these events are held outside and therefore are subject to the weather and that's why you see kind of an erratic pattern here. This is a graph of what we call our modern performance events, which is CAT, fast CAT and scent work. They are growing very rapidly and this year that number will be about 100,000 entries. And, finally, this is a graph of our title recognition program. These are the sports that we associate with some outside sport provider. The major ones you have all heard of are barn hunt, dock diving and therapy dogs. They have been growing. There are many other smaller activities in this graph. Parent club performance events is an example. The one activity that does fall under this that I did not put in the graph, because it would totally blow the graph up, is our trick dog program which last year we launched on May 1st and we did 18,000 titles in the trick dog program. We knew trick dogs would be popular, but we didn't realize how popular really it was going to be, and it hasn't let up. People are very excited about trick dogs.

There are three major sports and events goals, the first one is to support breeding for type and function by providing evaluation in purposeful sporting events. That is the traditional basis of AKC sports, and many of our sports accomplish that very well. Our second goal is to promote purebred dogs as family companions, responsible dog ownership, and encourage involvement with AKC by providing activities that appeal to the interests, lifestyle and resources of all dog owners. That's where we are trying to expand our reach to people who perhaps don't have interest in our traditional sport, get them involved with AKC. Once they are involved, hopefully they will look around and see some of the other activities and understand the great things we do and will migrate to other sports. And, finally, our third goal is to retain participants by providing a lifetime of rewarding activities for dogs and their families. We have been adding novice-level activities at the lower end, more advanced titles at the upper end, so once you get locked in to whatever you love to do, you can do that from puppyhood to veteran dogs.

To get into some of our conformation initiatives, I'm going to go back to 2017, because a lot of these are just ramping up. First off, we introduced the Club Development Department in January of '17. I think the greatest indicator of how successful this has been is that we have come to accept the fact that this department is there to help. It is only a year and a half old and they have really helped clubs a lot and are proactively working with clubs all the time. We made it easier to form specialty clubs last year. The two B matches and two A matches, that happen six months apart, meant it took a group of people that got together and said we want to do AKC sports, it took that group of people over two years to actually do what they wanted to do. That doesn't fit very well with society today, so we have cut that in half. Now it is one B match and one A match. There are some other activities that we did too to help the formation of local specialty clubs. We did a lot of work last year on B matches. We really think the B match is the way to attract people. Certainly, that's how I got started in conformation, the good ole show in the park. They were fun. They were leisurely. There was an English Springer Spaniel that I never could beat that kept showing up at every B match that I went to. Last year we did promotional e-mail blasts for the clubs and customized their message that we sent out to all the dogs within a certain age range and a certain distance from the location of the B match to try to make them aware and come to the event. We allowed B

matches to be held in conjunction with license shows and we allowed 4 to 6-month puppy to be held in conjunction with B matches. So those are the activities we took last year. What are the results so far? And I don't think the whole story is known yet. But in 2017 the number of B matches held by our clubs decreased by 15 percent, pretty rapid decrease in B matches. May year-to-date they are up 2 percent. So that's not exactly a grand slam, but we have bent the line, and hopefully that will continue. The number of entries in B matches May year-to-date, are up by 8 entries per B match. Last year we revised the judges' approval process. We added a breeder of merit by levels of recognition. There were two purposes to that. One of them was just to acknowledge our breeders who had successfully bred title dogs over a long period of time. The second idea was an incentive to breeders, stay in touch with your puppy buyers because if you encourage them to earn titles and be active in our sports and they earn titles, that will reflect back on your breeding program and you can move up to a higher level of breeder of merit. We introduced the Puppy of Achievement Pilot Program. The root of this idea is that conformation and field trials are two type of sports where there is no levels of accomplishment that kind of correspond to your level of experience in the sport. People want to have a reasonable goal they can achieve as they mature and gain experience in their sport. So, the Puppy of Achievement, which is a one-year pilot certificate program, is meant to give new puppy owners something that they could realistically strive to achieve while they are gaining experience in the sport. I think the jury is still out on the success of this pilot but I can tell you that in 2017 puppy entries, and these are 6 to 12, were down 1.8 percent. May year-to-date this year, they are down 0.9 percent. So not a grand slam, but at least they are moving in the right direction. Last year, Mari-Beth introduced the Junior Versatility Program. Mari-Beth has been our champion for juniors all along. This Versatility Program is meant to encourage juniors to try at least three different sports and accumulate points in those sports. We had a welcome reception for the juniors in Orlando in December and we gave away four scholarships to the four highest-point juniors. We have allowed FSS breeds to be shown in junior showmanship, and we sent out an e-mail for the first time to the owners the first time a dog is shown. We don't think that in itself will result in many entries, but it is a great avenue to communicate to new people and lead them to resources on the AKC website.

Some of our initiatives for 2018 that span all the sports, we have been working in sports and events to remove administrative barriers and reduce the bureaucracy. AKC is a 135-year-old organization and over that time we have a lot of rules, policies and regulations. To the Delegates, I would ask you when an idea comes before you, and oftentimes these things are motivated by there is a once-in-a-blue-moon type of an occurrence, and we can't let that happen again. In the process of preventing that once-in-a-blue-moon thing, we impose a little bit of a burden on our clubs or our participants and at the time we think that's not much of a problem, but over time these things start to mount up. This is how you build bureaucracy one brick at a time. So, when these things come before you, I ask you to back up and take a broader view and say do we really need that rule. Just Sunday, Mari-Beth introduced the new Junior Ambassador Program, which is another way to engage juniors not only in our sports, but also encourage them to engage with club activities and community activities that are dog-related. Finally, a major initiative across all sports is what I call Tell Our Story about the good things we do. We can do all the great things in our sports that we want, but most of the world doesn't realize we are out there doing these things. This is an area I really have to compliment the Board and Dennis because as an organization they have assembled a number of departments and individuals with the skills and background to tell our story. Three months ago, Gina talked about AKC TV. Dominic talked about the Museum of the Dog. If you weren't excited after listening to them, you were probably dozing, because both of

those are fantastic new initiatives to tell our story. But there are many others that we have in place. Our social media presence is larger than it has ever been. We have a very active Public Relations Department. As we saw Sunday, we have a growing Public Education Department, a Marketing Department that is working with Sports & Events to promote our sports. Our Government Relations Department has helped telling our story to decision-makers around the country. The Canine Health Foundation, you hear more of the good things they are doing for health research. Pet disaster relief, primarily through AKC Reunite, you hear about that and all the disaster trailers that we are putting in place. And then the AKC Humane Fund also helps with disaster relief and providing pet shelters in connection with domestic violence shelters. So, I think AKC, is in a better position to tell our story than we have ever been in the past.

Some of our 2018 conformation initiatives, earning 1 point for best of winners with competition, or the handle we put on this is the 1 plus 1 equals 1. There were three different Delegate committees that reviewed this idea yesterday and the feedback I have gotten is they were all positively -- they all endorsed this idea. We will move this forward to the Board with this idea. This will be particularly helpful for our low/low entry breeds where they, as things are going, have little opportunity to win a point in conformation. We heard our Dandie Dinmont panelist on Sunday state, it is hard to get Dandies in the hands of show people because they just can't finish the dog. That is a terrible development and it is really a spiral downward. So, we have to throw these breeds a lifeline to give them some hope. The Sports & Events Department are taking on what we call the all-breed event analysis. The purpose of this is balance the number of shows with the needs of participants and clubs, or another way we have put it, we are trying to answer the question, are there too many dog shows? This is a never-ending question. (Interruption in the proceedings.)

Mr. Ljungren: Okay, continuing on, for 2018 initiatives, I was on number 2 on the slide, all breed event analysis. Basically, we are trying to address the question are there too many dog shows? While I hear a lot of yes's, but I can tell you, it depends where you live. That's part of the answer. If you are in the Northeast or Upper Midwest, you are well-served. There are some places in the west, Denver right now stands out as an area that has requested more shows, and our data indicates yes, they need more shows. They are underserved compared to the rest of the country. So, we are trying to come up with criteria that does not allow more dog shows in areas that are well-served, yet does provide the opportunity for more shows in some parts of the country that might need it. This is not an easy project. We have been working on this for at least six months. But we will go to the Board hopefully in July for what we are going to call a discussion. Number 3, we are trying to promote specialty clubs for low entry breeds. We have had a policy that is kind of uniform for the formation of all clubs. You can't have a territory that is too big. You have to have the same number of members to form a club. That doesn't fit very well if you have a low/low entry breed. You may need a region to form a specialty club. And we think specialty clubs promote a kinship that develops around a breed. We are looking at how we can change some of our internal policies. Fourth is a study around, we really haven't got into it yet, but it is on our radar, the number one way to increase entries in all breed shows is have associated specialty shows. Now, there are some problems in scheduling, particularly if it is a concurrent specialty. But, still, if you want to drive entries, specialty clubs can help you do that. We are going to explore opportunities to greater utilize specialty clubs to grow entries in all breed shows. We are promoting multi-sport events. You heard about that at the Education Summit on Sunday, also some of the committees had presentations on that yesterday. This is a collection of activities that will hopefully bring in the new dog owners. Once they get there, hopefully they will look around at some of the other sports and see what is of interest to them and start to

engage with AKC. Lastly, in January, we started e-mail blasts for specialty clubs. I think the jury is still out on whether that has had an impact on attendance at these specialty events, but we will be tracking that. Again, this is where the specialty club can customize the message for their event. So those are our major initiatives that we are undertaking right now.

As we look to the future, there is a couple of observations. The first is what we call the challenge of change. As an organization, we are very comfortable living 20 years ago, but the world is moving on and we need to move on with it. The example I gave you about obedience is the perfect example of the challenge of change. Well-intentioned people had quite strong opinions that differed on how to move forward. In the end we made a decision and we moved forward. And that same issue will come up over and over as we strive to attract new exhibitors. Sports & Events is trying to build a diversified portfolio to create a broad-based dog community, having a diversified portfolio that meets the interests, lifestyle and resources of all dog owners. And, lastly, we are trying to provide a lifetime of activities to keep people engaged with AKC throughout the life of their dog.

In conclusion, I can say the fancy is united in its desire to see our sports and clubs succeed, however, given the wide variety of ideas that are provided to the staff, I can also say that the fancy is not of one mind on how best to make this happen. That's okay, because through all the noise and at times frustration, there are threads of consensus that when backed up with some solid research, has and will continue to provide us a path forward. So, keep sharing your ideas. Together we will succeed. Thank you.

Chief Financial Officer, Joseph Buffuto, gave the Financial Report as follows:  
Good morning to you, the AKC Delegate body. For those of you that have been involved and attended the activities over the past couple of days, we hope everything has been informative and productive. I'm confident that my presentation here will be more of the same and, as a reminder to you, we will have this posted to the AKC Delegates Portal by the end of tomorrow. Let us begin with an overview of revenue and expenses through the end of May. Our income statement reflects \$31.1 million in total revenue and \$29.5 million in total expenses, for an operating income of just over \$1.6 million. During the first five months of the 2017 year we recorded \$29.1 million in revenue with \$25.7 million in expenses, for \$3.4 million of operating income. From our overview now to our core. Let's observe our core operations, registrations. Our volumes of dogs and litters have increased phenomenally over the last year. Litters are continuing a trend for the fourth consecutive year. Litters registered to date are 104,083, up a whopping 6 percent from the 98,000 level in May 2017. Next, year-to-date dogs are just shy of 256,000, which is a 13,500 volume increase, or 5 percent from the same period last year. This also follows the trend for which individual dog registrations are up for the fifth consecutive year. Continued amazing results from an amazing staff supporting the registry and the mission of the AKC.

Focusing next on the revenue side of our operations, we comparatively showcase a \$2 million increase in total revenues as of the five months ended May 31. Let's drill down on the 7 percent increase. The largest revenue increase is that of dog registrations, to the tune of \$896,000. This 13 percent increase is derived from a combination of both the previously-stated 5 percent volume increase along with a positive financial impact of a paper surcharge. Our royalties and sponsors income is up by \$720,000, or nearly 58 percent. Our affiliates operations as well as our licensing partners have attributed the most to this line item's success. Our Canine Good Citizen Program has excelled in 2018

to reflect an additional \$497,000 in income. Our fourth most successful revenue year-to-date is that of litters, garnering an increase in added revenue of \$191,000. This coincides directly with the efforts we have put forth to drive our volumes up by 6 percent. We are pleased with the 7 percent increase to overall revenue, however, we want to strive to enhance our program revenues even further than we have to date.

Transitioning to expenses, over the first five months of this year our costs have risen by \$3.8 million. There are a number of contributing factors to this 14 percent increase. Let's analyze further. First off, payroll and benefits, which as a whole represents nearly 50 percent of our overall operating budget, and has now increased by \$1.5 million for 2018 in comparison to the first five months of 2017. Our current head count of 338 represents a 9 percent increase, or 28 positions from our total staff level at this time last year. Our consulting costs have increased by \$696,000 in a year over year comparison. A number of functions and programs throughout the organization have contributed to the increase, including our AKC.TV efforts, our New York office relocation activities, our communications and public relations movements, our fundraising programs, and our technology team. Next, our marketing costs have increased by \$623,000 in these five months of 2018, focusing on registration programs, sports and events, as well as our purebred dog consumer demand efforts. Also, our contributions provided to the successful programs of the AKC Canine Health Foundation have increased by \$348,000 so far this year. We are productively controlling our costs throughout the remaining balance of this fiscal year without a negative impact to our programs and all our customers and constituents. Our investment performance year-to-date has slightly underperformed our expected benchmark and has been rather mundane to some of the successes that we have achieved in previous years. Our year-to-date unrealized gain is \$88,000, or 21 basis points, which represents a 77 basis point miscue of our benchmark. We do have full confidence that our investment management team will be able to rebound from this minor year-to-date underperformance and have complete success during the remainder of our fiscal year. Our balance sheet signifies the strength of our organization. As of May 31 we are reflecting \$171.7 million in total assets, with \$77.3 million in total liabilities. As we can see here, these are both significant multi-million dollar increases over the prior year. The difference between our total assets and total liabilities are our unrestricted net assets.

Let's lastly take a review of the composition of those unrestricted net assets. Our operating reserve of \$38 million solidifies the continuity of our business operations, if there was a significant emergency. Our investment in our property, plant and equipment of \$10.7 million represents our technology equipment, furniture, fixtures and leasehold improvements, amongst other items in both our New York headquarters and our North Carolina operational facility. The underfunded status of \$65 million for our pension and post-retirement plans represents a shortfall from our long-term liabilities to these plans. We have taken measures to control as much as possible within the plans for the short term, however, a reasonably significant shift in market interest rates will be the triumphant factor to reduce this underfunded status over a longer period of time. Lastly, the \$110.7 million of our AKC Board-designated funds allows us to make long-term decisions which will continue to help us succeed in supporting our mission along with certain non-core opportunities as well. Again, the full deck that I have briefed here will be available on the portal tomorrow for you to communicate to your clubs, and if there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. May we all have a safe and great day.

There was a vote on Chapter 6, Section 2, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Premium Lists and Closing of Entries and Chapter 16, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championships. This amendment would change the capitalization of "benched" and "unbenched" in Chapter 6, Section 2 for consistency, and would move an italicized sentence in Chapter 16, Section 1, to a non-italicized sentence as part of the rule, in Chapter 6, Section 2, which addresses premium list requirements. This amendment was proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on Chapter 7, Section 2, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Judges. This amendment proposed to change "license" to "approval" on the judge application form. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on Chapter 7, Section 12, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Judges. This amendment proposed to bring consistency to this section to allow for electronic communication and change the italicized sentence to part of the rule. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on Chapter 7, Section 19, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Judges, which would make the italicized sentence part of the rule and removes the recommendation that the Best in Show judge be someone that has not already judged that day. Currently, the only hardship cases that are approved are day of event cancellations. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment is adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, Section 4, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Shows Defined.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to Chapter 1, Section 4, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Shows Defined, allows clubs to limit their event by the number of dogs or by the total entry. The proposal was brought forward by the AKC Board of Directors based on a Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and Staff recommendation. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2018 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 5, Section 9 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Ribbons, Prizes and Trophies.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to Chapter 5, Section 9, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Ribbons, Prizes and Trophies, allows a club to offer a three-time win trophy for Reserve Best in Show. The proposal was brought forward by the AKC Board of Directors based on a Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and Staff recommendation. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to

vote on it at the September 2018 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed.

Mr. Sprung: Is there any question on the proposed amendment?

The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to please read the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 16, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Classifications.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to Chapter 3, Section 16, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Classifications, would specify the order in which awards are presented by a judge at an All-Breed Show. The amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and unanimously disapproved by the AKC Board at the February 2018 Board meeting. The Dog Show Rules Committee is requesting that this amendment go forward to the Delegates for a vote, as per the AKC Bylaws. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2018 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, section 16, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to Chapter 11, Section 16, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, would address collars and leads that are considered inappropriate for use at dog shows. The amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and unanimously disapproved by the AKC Board at the February 2018 Board meeting. The Dog Show Rules Committee is requesting that this amendment go forward to the Delegates for a vote, as per the AKC Bylaws.

The Executive Secretary read the list of vacancies for the Delegate committees that are to be filled in September.

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

All-Breed Clubs Committee: Four, three-year terms.

Bylaws Committee: Three, three-year terms and one, two-year term.

Canine Health Committee: Three, three-year terms and one, one-year term.

Companion Events Committee: Four, three-year terms.

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee: Four, three-year terms.

Dog Show Rules Committee: Four, three-year terms.

Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee: Three, three-year terms and two, one-year terms.

Herding, Earthdog, and Coursing Events Committee: Three, three-year terms.

Parent Clubs Committee: Four, three-year terms.

Perspectives Editorial Staff: Six, two-year terms.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that they would be emailed self nomination forms by the end of June. The self-nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by Friday, July 20th. Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be directed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self-nominate for one committee, except that a member of Perspectives Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing

committee. In August, the Delegates will be e-mailed the nominees for each committee and their qualification statements.

The Chair called upon Gail LaBerge, chairman of the AKC PAC, Chris Sweetwood, Vice Chairman, and Jim Dok, former Chairman of the AKC PAC.

Ms. LaBerge: On behalf of the AKC PAC Board, we wish to recognize with a resolution James R. Dok, who had been our Chair from April of 2017 through March of 2018. He gave a great deal of effort and time and it is appreciated. The entire resolution will be available on the AKC website under the Government Relations area for everyone to read. But we just appreciate his dedication to the American Kennel Club and to the AKC Political Action Committee. Thank you, Jim. (Applause)

Mr. Dok: I wrote this down. I will keep it short. As you heard this morning at the presentation, AKC Government Relations is one of our greatest assets and we have really started to turn the corner, but, as you know, we need your help. The AKC PAC provides the funds that make it possible for Government Relations to do what they do. Please become a part of the team. Please promote the President's Challenge in your clubs and please see Sheila today and give generously. For just the cost of a single dog show entry you can make a difference in the state, local and federal elections. We need your help more than ever now. Thank you. (Applause)

The Chair informed the Delegates that the September 2018 Delegate meeting is being held later in the month. The date for the September Delegates meeting is Tuesday, the 25th, September 25, which will be held here at the Doubletree Hotel. The Conference and Travel Department will send an e-mail and post information on the Delegates Portal after the block of rooms becomes available. The December Delegates meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida. The meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel on Friday, December 14, 2018. The Conference and Travel Department will also send information at that time.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Jay Phinzy, Delegate for the Scottish Deerhound Club of America commended Sheila Goff and Phil Guidry and the rest of the Canine Legislative Department, for the great assistance and support they gave the state of New Hampshire and the dog people in New Hampshire, where he has been a long-time resident. Over the last six months they faced the Humane Society of the United States and they spent over about 1.2 to \$1.25 million in order to promote essentially what is de facto a spade/neuter law under the guise of a rescue operation. He strongly encouraged that the Delegates and their club members donate to the Canine Legislative Fund.

Sherry Wallis, Delegate for the Akita Club of America thanked all the Delegates who contributed to the June issue of Perspectives for delivering outstanding and substantial material. She informed everyone she was coordinating the September issue of Perspectives with a hard deadline of July 15th for submitting articles. Delegates were reminded she could be reached for help by phone or e-mail.

Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate for the Redwood Empire Kennel Club recapped his weekend judging of an event called Woofstock, complete with retro inspired tie-dye attire and wigs, where for the first time they had a peewee event and a party afterward. As the future of the sport, he believes in promoting these types of peewee events. There were

29 children there participating, which was also a record. Children were dressed in tie-dyes – one in particular wore the same kind of wig that he did, with a long moustache, fake hair on his chest, mentioning the photos were posted to Facebook. He thanked the Woofstock Club, which was the Contra Costa Kennel Club, for hosting the event and planning to do so again next year. It is not competition; one dog, one child, one responsible adult. He advised that every club, even with a small quantity of children, should consider this type of event, because it's engaging and fun.

Sylvia Thomas, Delegate for the Kennel Club of Riverside and editor of Perspectives added to the remarks of Sherry Wallis. She noted that if a Delegate has an idea for an article and they just aren't sure how to get it on paper, they are encouraged to contact any member of Perspectives for assistance. She promised that with the help of any Perspectives Committee members, their final published product would make them proud. Secondly, she thanked the Delegate body for their readership, highlighting that there were some great articles written by Delegate colleagues. To gain permission to share those articles with your clubs, she instructed to send her an e-mail, she would get approval by the author, who was always happy to give it, and she would create and provide a PDF that can be shared in publications elsewhere.

Tom Pincus, Delegate for the Houston Kennel Club expressed the common effort to use social media at a local level and the challenge of coming up with fresh content on a daily basis. He thanked AKC.TV and AKC Communicate for regularly providing a rich source of material to share.

Karolynne McAteer, Delegate for the Irish Setter Club of America followed up with a reminder about support for PAC and the work of the Government Relations department, that a campaigning rule limits donations to \$5,000. Checks should be kept at a maximum of \$4,999.

Nance Skoglund, Delegate for the Gordon Setter Club of America spoke in reference to the proposed change to Dog Show Rules regarding leashes and collars. She expressed 100 percent agreement with Doug Ljungren that not many more regulations are needed, however, when there is one, it should be easy for people to find. She pointed out that in obedience regulations, agility regulations, field trial regulations, there is a paragraph outlining what you can use for a leash or a collar. If you look in Dog Show Rules for conformation, it's not there. It is in two different places. It is on the AKC website under Rules, Regulations and Policies, the Board Policy Manual under Dog Show Policies, the third to the last bullet, labeled Training Collars. The second place it is in the Show Trial Manual which is geared towards secretaries and superintendents. It is a 192-page manual and the rule about leashes and collars in conformation shows is in Chapter 13, page 164, in Appendix C. She explained how important it was to inform exhibitors what resources indicate what kind of leash or collar they can use at a dog show. She spoke from personal experience that someone at a Gordon Setter National competition tried to use a leash and a collar in an illegal configuration and there was no place prohibiting it in the Dog Show Rules, so it caused a fair amount of problems for her club. She asked for support when it comes up for a vote in September.

Ann Cook, Delegate for the Siberian Husky Club of America provided a second account of what Jay Phinizy spoke on. She is also a resident of the state of New Hampshire and agreed the state fought a very, very hard battle. They managed to bring together a lot of people who are dog people, including the community of mushers, dog sledders, who are kind of independents and don't always come forward to participate in these types of

things. She expressed admiration for the Government Relations Department and Sheila Goff, for always being available for support.

Barbara Shaw, Delegate for the Greater Collin Kennel Club praised the Educational Summit, specifically regarding detection dogs. As an owner of a Doberman Pinscher is in constant discussion about cropping, she was thrilled to hear the affirmation of a cropped dog, or pointy ear, as being a function of a breed, and it is an argument I present regularly. She urged support for the cropping dog.

Pat Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America and co-chair of the AKC Reunite Trailer Task Force, recalled the meeting 5 years ago when the Delegate body saw an example of what an AKC Reunite trailer would look like and simultaneously when the AKC Reunite Task Force was formed. Since that time, 393 clubs have participated in this program, and the program received \$1,728,000 in donations from those clubs and individuals, in addition to \$450,000 given by other sources. To date, 68 trailers have been delivered, 6 trailers are in the pipeline to be delivered, totaling 74 trailers on the ground. At one time, the Task Force was not sure whether they would even reach 50 trailers. Currently there are 18 clubs that are fundraising towards a trailer, which means that 92 trailers, if they succeed, will be on the ground. These trailers have been used in numerous disasters and none of it could have happened without the Delegates and their clubs.

Robert Schroll, Delegate for the Clarksville Kennel Club commented on the Education Summit that was held on Sunday, noting that most of the attendees were Delegates, but for those of the audience that were not, how impressed they must have been with the organization. He professed gratitude to Mr. Sprung, the current board, and past boards, for the staff that has been hired to manage all of the different functions of our sport.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am

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