THE EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE DELEGATE PARENT CLUB COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 10, 2015

The December 10, 2015 meeting of the Delegate Parent Club Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Pat Laurans, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

Committee Members Present:

Anne Bowes	Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America
Karen Burgess	Greater Clark County Kennel Club
Connie Butherus	Afghan Hound Club of America
Don James	Leonberger Club of America
Pat Laurans	German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Karen Mays	Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association
John Nielsen	English Setter Association of America
Peter Piusz	American Rottweiler Club
Helen Prince	Scottish Terrier Club of America
Larry Sorenson	Dachshund Club of America
Karen Spey	American Pointer Club

Also Present:

Bill Feeney	AKC Board Liaison
Thomas Powers	AKC Board Liaison
Charlie Garvin	AKC Board
Alan Kalter	AKC Board
Michael Liosis	AKC Staff Liaison

Guests:

Michelle Anderson	Pug Dog Club of America
Jeffrey Ball	Ramapo Kennel Club
Michelle Barllak	Ibizan Hound Club of the United States
Robert Bergman	Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America
Roberta Berman	American Manchester Terrier Club
Paul Bodeving	Rogue Valley Kennel Club
Lisa Boyer	American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Assn.
Susan Burgess	English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association
Robert Brown	Great Pyrenees Club of America
Becky Campbell	Mastiff Club of America
Katie Campbell	Basenji Club of America
Tim Carrion	American Chesapeake Club
William Christensen	Australian Terrier Club of America
Karen Clausing	Miniature Pinscher Club of America
April Clyde	California Airedale Terrier Club
Sharon Collins	English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
Bryan Comsky	Chicago Collie Club
Warren Cook	South Oregon Kennel Club
Ann Mariah Cook	Siberian Husky Club of America
Catherine Cooper	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America

Kathy Coxwell	Bearded Collie Club of America
Pam Davis	Cairn Terrier Club of America
Margaret DiCorleto	The Chow Chow Club
Kim Demchak	Giant Schnauzer Club of America
Virginia Denninger	Gennessee Valley Kennel Club
Karen Dorn	Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America
Peggy Doster	Kennel Club of Buffalo
Florence Duggan	Sussex Hills Kennel Club
James Efron	Nashville Kennel Club
Sary Fineberg	Hatboro Dog Club
Mary Ellen Fishler	Poodle Club of America
Deidre Gannon	German Pinscher Club of America
Lynn Garvin	Marion Ohio Kennel Club
Michael Gibson	Briard Club of America
Leon Goetz	US Australian Shepherd Association
Merlyn Green	Del Monte Kennel Club
Joellen Gregory	Otterhound Club of America
Sandra Haber	Mohawk Valley Kennel Club
Don Hanson	American Lhasa Apso Club
Stephen Hershey	Skye Terrier Club of America
Sharyn Hutchens	Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club
Michael Houchard	Conyers Kennel Club
Ann Hubbard	French Bulldog Club of America
Eugenia Hunter	Irish Wolfhound Club of America
Patricia Kanan	American Cavalier King Charles Club
Sara Karl	Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America
Patte Klecan	American Bouvier des Flandres Club
Stacey LaForge	Tibetan Terrier Club of America
Sanda Launey	Basset Hound Club of America
Karen Luckey	Spinone Club of America
Karolynne McAteer	Irish Setter Club of America
Colleen McDaniel	Whidbey Island Kennel Club
Jack McDaniel	Irish Water Spaniel Club of America
Andrew Mills	Del Sur Kennel Club
Harvey Mohrenweiser	Standard Schnauzer Club of America
Aleta Moore	Airedale Terrier Club of America
Vivian Moran	Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America
Bob Newcomb	Bulldog Club of America
Jeannette O'Hanlon	Staffordshire Terrier Club of America
Jo Patrick	Schipperke Club of America
Patricia Peel	Alaskan Malamute Club of America
Richard Rohrbacher	Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America
John Ronald	Samoyed Club of America
Pamela Rosman	Canaan Dog Club
Joyce Rowland	Australian Cattle Dog Club of America
Barbara Schwartz	German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America
Ereign Seacord	Welsh Terrier Club of America

Gloria Shaver	Skyline Kennel Club
Susan Sholar	Black Russian Terrier Club of America
Giselle Simond	Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America
Nance Olson Skoglund	Gordon Setter Club of America
Adrienne Soler	Woodstock Dog Club
Lynn Worth Smith	Viszla Club of America
Maggi Strouse	National Shiba Club of America
Fran Stephens	Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers
Rick Su	Keeshond Club of America
Audrey Sutton	Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club
Dale Tarbox	Great Dane Club of America
Harold Tatro	Fort Worth Kennel Club
Mary Gauthier-Teeling	Tonawanda Valley Kennel Club
Mike Teeling	Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States
Judith Tighe	American Brittany Club
Elizabeth Tilley-Poole	Pekingese Club of America
Robert Urban	American Black and Tan Coonhound Club
Sally Vilas	American Shih Tzu Club
Marilyn Vinson	Southeast Iowa Kennel Club
Bruce Voran	American Boxer Club
Julie Virosteck	American Spaniel Club
Ann Wallin	Atlanta Kennel Club
Sherry Wallis	Akita Club of America
Marile Waterstraat	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
Lori Webster	Norwegian Elkhound Club of America
Carole Wilson	Belle City Kennel Club
Burt Yamada	Orange Empire Kennel Club

Committee Members introduced themselves. Because we have a full schedule, in order to save time, the audience was not introduced. Pat Laurans announced that our Staff Liaison, Mike Liosis, would be retiring and he would only be with us for two more meetings. Our new Liaison, starting with the September meeting, will be Mari Beth O'Neill. Pat wanted Mike to know that we appreciate everything he has done for our committee. On a motion by Peter Piusz, the minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed. Pat introduced Dr. Diane Brown who has joined the AKC Canine Health Foundation as Chief Scientific Officer and is attending our meeting to learn what it is that parent clubs do. Pat added that people who were at the recent CHF Health Conference felt it was the best one they had ever attended.

Parent Club Conference and Parent Club Delegate Lists: It is important for everyone to be on the list and to share information. Contact Peter Piusz or John Nielsen to join the list.

Parent Club Legislative Liaisons, Anne Bowes: Anne reported for Sheila Goffe who is head of AKC Government Relations. "Use of the yahoo group list by Parent Club Legislative Liaisons has been very disappointing. AKC Government Relations makes occasional posts to it, but the rare posts by AKC GR appear to be just about the only posts that are being placed on the list. Since the purpose of the list is for parent club legislative liaisons to share information, we suggest that we change the format from a yahoo list to a closed Facebook group, which may be more user-friendly and more welcoming for discussion

among the various Parent Club Legislative Liaisons. It may ameliorate some of the technical issues that some people have encountered. If the Parent Club Committee wishes to pursue this option, AKC GR will create a new, closed Facebook group to replace the old list. The Facebook group can be associated with the AKC GR Facebook page. AKC GR can alert all current list users, all parent club legislative liaisons and delegates about the transition from yahoo to Facebook, and GR will begin a discussion thread on that resource instead. The Facebook page will be monitored by the GR team and will provide links to alerts, blogs, white papers and other resources." Anne Bowes moved we replace the Yahoo List with Facebook. Motion carried. Pat asked Anne to make sure that when this is done that Sheila notify the parent clubs of this change so that they can sign-up.

CGC Title Numbers, Mike Liosis: Mike reported that as of November 30th CGC title numbers are at 39,600. This is up about 10% since last reported. These are going up steadily.

Dock and Crop, Peter Piusz: The Dock and Crop meeting will be held at the same time as the Coordinating Committee Meeting. The topic will be Docking and Cropping in Canada.

Parent Club Rescue Alliance E-List, Peter Piusz: The Alliance has picked up 6 clubs and there are 102 clubs that are participating. There are 28 clubs that have representatives and 44 that have not responded. These are very deceptive numbers. If your club has one rescue group, that is on the list. Most parent clubs have several rescue groups that range anywhere from 2 to 20. The parent clubs have given us contact information for about 220 groups that have not responded. There are currently about 280 active emails. What Peter plans to do is publish the list that will go out with the same mailings as the Health Statements that go to each club's president, secretary and delegate. This will be posted on the Delegate L. Each parent club will be sent the list so that they can see who is actually signed up and who is not responding. Peter admits that it is hard for the parent clubs to get their rescue groups to respond. If you are on the last, watching what is being discussed is fascinating. There are two issues Peter is working on: 1) A lot of the rescues have complained about insurance coverage. Dennis Sprung has promised that if Peter can describe what rescue insurance should look like he will have Staff work with us to try to get better coverage and restructure coverage into what is wanted. Peter has to get people to respond and define what they think good coverage is. 2) This list is based on rescue groups that are in the AKC Rescue network so that AKC takes credit for supporting Rescue. When Chris Walker was working on this phase of the social media web site he had the belief that rescue was a key part of that marketing program because it showed the AKC support for rescue and showed that purebred rescue was a real functioning entity. His belief was that each of these organizations should be allowed to put the dogs they are trying to rescue on the AKC Marketplace at no charge to the parent clubs for rescue organizations. If this committee approves, Peter will be writing a proposal for this to go before the Board. He will submit the same proposal to the Health Committee for their input, if this committee approves, that clubs not be charged for posting rescue dogs on the web site. Karolynne McAteer, Irish Setter Club of America, questioned the legal ramifications to AKC for dogs with bad temperaments. She felt this could damage the brand we are trying to maintain. John Nielsen moved Peter go to the Board with this proposal. Motion passed.

Parent Clubs and AKC.org, Peter Piusz: This issue is the parent club stores. The concept that was floated on the AKC Market Place was that each parent club would have a storefront on the AKC web site in addition to their own parent club web site so that they would link directly to the AKC database and also for direct promotional purposes. Peter will meet with Steven Smith and he expects to see an update in March and try to send out an email to all parent club delegates

Parent Club Health Statements for AKC Online Classifieds, Peter Piusz: Each club president, secretary and delegate received the program description for the health statements over the past quarter. The purpose of the health statements is twofold. One is to provide a description to the public for people interested in buying puppies in your breed so that when they go to your breed on the AKC web site that health statement pops up and tells them how parent clubs keep the health of their breed, what tests are required and an explanation that hopefully is in detail. The second part is encapsulated in the first part which is that you are defining your testing requirements. The Bred With Heart Program uses parent club requirements to define people who qualify for these programs. The AKC is taking these requirements and updating the database they are creating. The database they created for Bred by Heart is based on the code of ethics (if your club has one) combined with their CHIC program and whatever else in on your web site concerning health that may help in that regard. At the last parent club meeting we voted that the ultimate definition of the health standards is the health statement written by the parent club. Peter does not look at the content of the club letters. He only cares about three things. 1) Is it on club letterhead, 2) does it say in the statement that it is approved by the Board of Directors, and 3) Is it signed by someone so AKC knows who to go to if there is a question. As of yesterday, Peter has 90 approved health statements. The issue going forward is we have a large number of parent clubs that have not responded at all. If your club does not have a health statement, all they have to do is write they do not have one, but there has to be something they are telling the puppy buyers about the health of your breed. The other side of this is there are a number of very highly-rated breeds in terms of numbers that have not responded at all. Peter will be issuing an updated list within the next week of who has and who has not responded. He will then follow up individually if he doesn't receive a response from your club in the next couple of weeks.

If your club writes a health statement and the AKC, through the Bred With Heart Program, publishes the requirements, if you do not believe that what they say matches your description, contact Mark Dunn to address this. Pat Laurans felt the statements should be easy for the puppy buyers to understand. All the tests should have a "click-on" definition of what the tests are since some of these tests are very obscure. Karen Spey feels leaving the definition vague in the paragraph about the breed should have a footnote, "please see further definitions at the parent club web site." Pat Laurans added that everything that has to do with a specific parent club, whether it be health testing, activities, or whatever, should have a built in link that would immediately take them back to the parent club web site. The more we take them back to the parent club web sites the more these prospective people are going to understand what it is and why it is. This is a recommendation that needs to be made to IT.

Breeders of Merit, Peter Piusz: Each club needs to receive a list of Breeders of Merit from AKC so that clubs can monitor who are Breeders of Merit from their parent clubs. Mari Beth O'Neill needs to cover this and she won't be here until the June meeting. There are 11,000 Breeders of Merit. The AKC never recorded where the information came from or whether they said they were a parent club member or a licensed club member. Mari Beth O'Neill did a survey of which she received possibly 3,000 responses of people saying they were a Breeder of Merit and a member of "this" club which leaves 8,000 unaccounted for. If you are a Breeder of Merit you get preferred status on the AKC Market Place so that you show up at the top of the list selling puppies. The issue is, if you are selling "Rottweiler" puppies and you are a Breeder of Merit for "Chihuahuas", why should you be listed as a Breeder of Merit for Rottweilers? Currently, if you are a Breeder of Merit for "Dachshunds" and do the health testing for "Poodles" they you can claim to be a Breeder of Merit for "Poodles." This is not what this program was originally designed to do, but it is what AKC is doing. Parent Club membership is not a part of this. Any club membership qualifies. We need to have Mari Beth here to answer questions and to talk to us about this.

AKC Bred With Heart Program, Bill Feeney: Bill indicated he didn't have much to report on the program itself but he has been advised the program is growing. As of November 1st there are 486 breeders enrolled in the program. Gretchen Bernardi, Mississippi Valley Kennel Club, asked about the requirements for Bred With H.E.A.R.T. When they were first published, and as they are now published on the web site, it was required you must comply with all local, state and federal laws (which many of our hobby breeders do not) and also that you must pay a fee. When a news statement came down from AKC these two were omitted from the requirements and she wondered if this was an oversight. Bill felt this was probably a miscommunication. He wants this to be a successful program and wants to proceed in helping purebred dogs lead healthier and happier lives. John Nielsen asked about the breakdown of the 486 breeders. How many are members of the fancy or are commercial breeders. The information from the Registration Department used to analyze this program shows that 69% are casual "backyard" breeders, 18% come from the fancy and 13% are commercial breeders.

Pet Disaster Trailer, Pat Laurans: Thirty-six trailers have been donated and delivered and ten more are on their way. Three hundred and nine clubs plus AKC Reunite have participated and in two years $1,109,744.00 ($250,000.00 of this coming from AKC Reunite) has been raised. It was pointed out that some of the trailers need to be weather sealed and Pat will send this request on to Tom Sharp. The trailer will be on the show floor so delegates will have an opportunity to talk.

Outreach to Parent Clubs in Sporting and Hound Groups, Karolynne McAteer, Irish Setter Club of America: There has not been any updating of the breed flyers for decades. What concerns Karolynne's committee most is that health information, contact information, and spay and neuter protocol is outdated. The AVMA vaccine protocol was changed just two years ago. Much information is very old, if not harmful. People have been using contact names inside their brochures rather than being driven to the web site. The committee has contacted the 61 breeds that fit inside the Sporting and Hound Groups and have had a 21% response. They have been working with Toni Hutto at AKC to get things updated. Karolynne reminded everyone that this affects the breeds outside the Sporting and Hound Groups as well. When prospective puppy buyers go onto your parent club web site the first thing they should see is the brochure that gives them a real synopsis of the breed they are looking at. The synopsis as it is now gets sent to puppy owners at the time they register their puppy. This is too late. They really need this information prior to purchasing their puppy. The brochures should go to the breeder at the time the litter is registered so that this information can be disseminated to prospective puppy buyers. Karolynne urged every parent club to submit their updated brochure before the March meeting so that she can give a final report at that time.

Parent Club of Excellence, Larry Sorenson and Connie Butherus: Larry's committee sent out another email and it is difficult to get parent clubs to respond. They are in the process of digesting some of the information they have received. Connie Butherus stated the committee has been working on adjusting some of their communication with the clubs. They are putting together frequently asked questions because many of the questions that come in are repetitive. Connie is going to be doing a summary of the clubs. The clubs will be listed by name, but their score will not be identified. She encouraged the clubs to participate in this because it is a wonderful picture as to what your club is doing and how they are servicing their membership and their breed. This is not a pass/fail. There are some clubs out there that are doing really good things. If your clubs has sent in your response in the past year it does not need to be updated.

Mike Teeling, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of America, asked that when requests go out on the Conference List the subject line be more specific, with a response date, so that it is not interpreted as spam.

Certificate of Merit Proposal, Pat Laurans: This proposal was discussed at a prior meeting and sent back to the Board and Staff with specific areas we were concerned about. The Staff has been charged with coming back to the Board with a revised proposal. Alan Slay and Bri Tesarz came to the Rules Committee, Parent Club Committee and All-Breed Committee and asked that this be discussed at our meetings because, before they take it to the Board, they would like to have a sense of how the delegate body and the committees are seeing this. The revised proposal was sent to all our committee members asking for comments. These comments were then sent to Alan Slay. Peter Piusz read what we received from Alan. "At the September meeting there was a delegate vote to send the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* which would expand the awarding of Certificate of Merit (CM) points to the regular puppy classes back to staff for review. The staff has listened to the feedback from the Delegates regarding the previous proposal and has developed a new proposal that includes this input. This new proposal is being presented to the All-Breed, Parent Club, and Dog Show Rules Committees in order to receive their feedback before moving forward. The proposal is for a new title called Puppy of Distinction (POD). In order to earn this suffix title, a puppy must accumulate 10 POD points from the 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition (PUP), the regular Puppy classes, or a combination of the two. All points must be earned with competition present. The schedule of POD points would be: 2 puppies competing = 1 point, 3 puppies = 2 points, 4 puppies = 3 points, 5 puppies = 4 points and 6 or more puppies = 5 points. All points earned at BPUP vents will be POD (not CM) points."

"The Beginner Puppy Competition for 4-6 month puppies was launched in July, 2012. In 2015 there were almost 500 BPUP classes with 8,000 entries. 26% of the BPUP exhibitors are new to the sport. This suggests the BPUP class is working to attract new owners to the sport. Over the past ten years, the number of dogs exhibiting in the regular puppy classes has decreased by 37%. Puppy entries are decreasing faster than the overall decrease being experienced by the sport, indicating an erosion of new dogs and new participants. The purpose of this proposal is to attract new participants and keep them engaged. Some puppy exhibitors feel at a disadvantage competing against more experienced dogs for championship points. Offering Puppy of Distinction points will provide these exhibitors an incentive to enter by providing a realistic goal while their dogs gain valuable ring experience. There is no change in procedure, nor any additional expense for the club, the judge, the steward, or the superintendent. With feedback from the delegate committees, the staff would like to present this recommendation to the Board in January. To meet this goal, Committee feedback is requested no later than Wednesday, December 16."

Connie Butherus read some of the comments that came back from the committee and have already been sent to Alan. Additional information is needed to understand the proposal. One concern was that a puppy could get this title without having to defeat any of its own breed. There is no mention of having to defeat its own breed, just other puppies. It also allows points to be earned from the regular puppy classes when it was felt the Beginner Puppy Competition was for 4-6 month puppies. There was also a discussion about reduced fees for puppies. Does this proposal neglect to state exactly HOW the puppies are to win these points when there is more than one puppy class? If you have two puppies, each being awarded winners in regular competition, would two sets of points be awarded, or only to the Best of Winners? If a puppy competing in a Best Puppy Competition, if offered, beats a substantial number of entries, would this affect the number of points awarded? Is this to be a prefix or a suffix? The level of competition not being specified leads to many questions. A dog could win points with a disqualifying fault that is not evident at a young age. Pat Laurans asked that if you have comments email them to Alan at als@akc.org.

Peter will post the comments on the Parent Club Delegate L. Pat feels this is a positive step that they are asking for input.

Specialty Show Email Campaign, Peter Piusz and Pat Laurans: The All-Breed clubs are very fortunate in that an e-mail goes out to people where there are shows in that particular area. This has been very effective and clubs can see a definite increase in attendance. At the last meeting our committee made a request that people who had dogs of a particular breed could be made aware that there is a national or regional specialty being held in their area. AKC has agreed to do a test for the month of January. They have identified the six most populous breeds and for those that have specialties in January they are sending out a mass mailing to everyone who has registered that breed in the past five years to make them aware that there will be a specialty for their breed in the area where they reside. This isn't everything that we asked for since it is just a test, but we'll see how it goes. Larry Sorenson stated the Dachshund Club of America has done this the past two years; 2014 in Sacramento and 2015 in Chattanooga. In Sacramento that set up a booth and had 80 people attend to watch the Dachshunds. There were 70 spectators in Chattanooga who wouldn't have been there if they hadn't had this information. This really works. In addition, people who have shown they are interested in the breed might become a part of the breed. Katie Campbell, Basenji Club of America, feels it is important your club has a dedicated person to work with the people who come into the show as spectators. You want them to feel welcome.

On Site Show Secretaries at Specialty Shows, Karen Burgess: Karen thanked the people who worked on this sub-committee with her: Larry Sorenson, Dachshund Club of America; Marilyn Currey, American Chinese Crested Club; Jo Patrick, Schipperke Club of America; Sally Vilas, American Shih Tzu Club, and Katherine Sullivan, Field Spaniel Society of America. Jo Patrick sent an email to Pat Laurans suggesting that they put together a list of on-site show secretaries; people who would be willing to work as on-site Show Secretaries at National Specialties. Karen thought it was important to do some research with Judges Operations, Event Operations and a couple of superintendents to find out what their feeling was for people being put on a list. All three of those entities thought by compiling a list it might be a liability for AKC as well as the show-giving club because there are rules that need to be followed and they didn't want to be involved with compiling this list. Clubs have always been allowed to use an on-site Show Secretary if they wish. This sub-committee decided that clubs wishing to employ an on-site secretary could reach out to other clubs or research the Parent Club Delegate L and the Parent Club Conference L for names. Putting out a list of names would be an endorsement and this could create problems. The Superintendents were afraid that someone who was inexperienced and not really aware of how to handle problems would put them into a position to be fined by AKC. There are people who do this for clubs that have the experience. Karen is one of them and she would be happy to help clubs find people. But, as far as designing a list of people who may or may not have the experience could be problematic. We do not want a non-vetted list. Susan Sholar, Black Russian Terrier Club of America, asked if there could be a disclaimer on the list. AKC's Legal Department would have to look at this. Helen Prince, Scottish Terrier Club of America, stated her club used MBF to provide the paper-work, but did not provide an On-Site Show Secretary. The person they were to use became ill and could not attend the event. Their club would have been relieved to be able to refer to a list for a replacement. Karen's recommendation was to get on the Conference and Delegate Lists to obtain a replacement. Sherry Wallace, Akita Club of America, stated there is a considerable difference in the fees charged by superintendents. Superintendents don't like doing a full-service National because it ties up one person for from one day to a week when they could be working an All-Breed show.

Future Parent Club Conferences – Possible Avenues, Pat Laurans and Peter Piusz: Over the years there have been many requests for another Parent Club Conference. Whether or not this is realistic, we thought we might discuss it. Peter reminded everyone that, for starters, it is a question of money. Assuming that we would put on the same level event that has been held before you need seed money of $50,000.00. The problem is AKC beating the bushes trying to support this show and other projects. We've talked about having scaled-down events, possibly in conjunction with Eukanuba. This presents time-conflicts and would require a great deal of effort. Our last Conference was five years ago. It was a great event for attendees, but a very expensive process. The reality is that it doesn't seem a possibility at this time. If anyone has any contacts with dog-related business that would like to offer promotional support we would love to talk with them. Our last Conference was sponsored by AKC, CAR and Eukanuba. Mary Ellen Fischler, Poodle Club of America, asked if the expenses could be borne by the attendees and the parent clubs. This would be determined by how many clubs and individuals would be willing to pay their way. Charlie Garvin noted that Peter's cost estimate of $50,000.00 was not correct. It was more like $250,000.00. He also mentioned that a few weeks ago AKC hired a Distance Education Coordinator who is doing many things translating the outlets that AKC has to individuals at various levels. This may be a way of using today's technology to dispense the knowledge this committee has to people seeking information such as, "How to Put on a Dog Show, How to Deal with Judges' Ed, Breeder Education, etc."

New Opportunity for BOW to Win 1 Point, Pat Laurans: A good thing that happened in the same vein as the Puppy of Distinction Title that went as a suggestion to the Board from our committee was the additional opportunity to earn one point for Best of Winners with competition. Peter Piusz read the following letter that came from Bob Slay. "The Event Operations department is requesting feedback from the All-Breed and Parent Club Committee for the following proposed rule change: *'If no points are credited to the dog awarded Best of Winners, the regular class dogs of both sexes shall be counted in calculating championship points. A maximum of one championship point can be awarded when combining sexes for the Best of Winners point calculation.'* This change would apply to all breeds and would most commonly affect the situation where there is one regular class dog and one regular class bitch entered for a breed/variety. The Dog Show Rules Committee has endorsed this proposal. If enacted, this would be an addition to Chapter 16, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows.* This change would have the greatest impact on those breeds that are not well represented at shows. Limiting this opportunity to only low-entry breeds would add an unnecessary layer of complexity and confusion. If an exhibitor knows ahead of time that neither sex meets the single point threshold the exhibitor will often not attend the show. We feel that this is detrimental to the sport and frustrating for exhibitors. The rule change will incent exhibitors to continue to exhibit and attend shows. Our research has shown that every point earned results in an exhibitor attending an average of 2.2 additional shows. I would appreciate your committee's comments regarding this idea no later than close of business on Wednesday, December 16, 2015." Connie Butherus read the submitted comments from the committee that indicated support of the proposal.

Karen Dorn, Dandy Dinmont Terrier Club of America, represents a low entry breed that has entries of only 300 for the entire year. She feels the Rules Committee is very understanding and emphasized it will always be up to the judge to decide if a dog is good enough to receive a point by going Best of Winners. Charlie Garvin added that according to the Staff report to the Board there would have been 11,850 additional single points awarded if this had been implemented in 2014. A 6.7% increase at the BOW level. Dogs will still have to receive majors to attain their championships.

By-Laws Change Proposal: Pat Laurans explained that Whitney Coombs was supposed to discuss this proposal but was unable to attend the meeting. Just as there are low entry breeds, there are low membership breeds and one size does not fit all. There are some clubs that have not been able to step into full recognition without having certain numbers, the same numbers that are required of other breeds. This does not seem fair and the proposal would try to level the playing field. The feeling of some of us is if the AKC accepts your standard, accepts you in the FSS and accepts you into Miscellaneous, you should be allowed to become a member club. We realize that times have changed and we need to think a little differently.

Committee to Discuss Campaign to Get More Parent Clubs to Join AKC, Pat Laurans: As a result of the By-Laws proposal and some other things, there are a number of clubs falling within these ranks and other ranks that have not become member clubs. We feel it is a benefit for all of these clubs to become part of who we are. In discussing this by email with the Committee it was decided to start a sub-committee to address this. Members of the committee are: Anne Bowes, Don James, Helen Prince, Karen Burgess, Whitney Coombs, and Mari-Beth O'Neill as the Liaison. The goal of this committee is to get every parent club to become a member club. We need them to understand the benefits of being a member club and what they will get by being a member club.

Showing Spayed and Neutered Dogs, Peter Piusz: The issue came up on the discussion groups about whether it should be allowed to show spayed and neutered dogs at All-Breed shows. Obviously it is only allowed in the Veterans Class at National Specialties. So, the question is, is this something people even want to consider? JoEllen Gregory, Otterhound Club of America, stated this is something she is very passionate about. She feels our veterans are still part of our breeding program even if they are spayed or neutered. She would love to get her ten-year-old bitch out at an All-Breed show to be able to show her off as the dam of several generations of dogs that are in the show ring. She can see there might be an argument for spayed and neutered dogs of younger generations being allowed, but if we allowed veterans to be shown this would be a start. Virginia Denninger, Genessee Valley Kennel Club, is in favor of this with some conditions. These dogs should not be advanced to championship status. Many of her puppy buyers have stated they would love to show their dogs even though she has required that they be spayed or neutered. The other advantage besides getting new people into the breeds that are somewhat rare is giving people a chance to see this breed or learn about a breeding program. Pat Laurans added that a lot of breeds have spay/neuter recommendations on their sites. There currently seems to be a thought that maybe, if we want to be inclusive and do things that will bring more people into the sport, we may want to think about this. Patti Klecan, American Bouvier des Flandres Club, stated she was adamantly opposed to this concept, but she would be fine with an "Exhibition Only" class. Don James stated that some of these dogs may have been spayed or neutered when they were older and could have contributed to the gene pool. Patricia Peel, Alaskan Malamute Club, proposed there are many dogs that could be sterile that are out there being shown.

National Specialty/Local Event Conflict Policy Change, Larry Sorenson: At the September, 2013 Board meeting the topic of All-Breed/Specialty Conflicts was addressed. If an All-Breed club refuses to grant permission to accommodate a Parent Club's National Specialty, a Parent Club Regional Specialty held in conjunction with a Parent Club National performance event,, or a local specialty held in conjunction with a national, the specialty club may appeal to an Event Review Committee consisting of the Show Events staff. The committee will consider such factors as: Has the AB club already given up breeds or agreed to coexist with other national specialties on that date? What entry does the breed club usually draw (how many entries might the AB club lose)? Exactly how far apart would the events be? (150 miles would pose less of a problem than 10). Has the AB club been forced to coexist with other

nationals because of an appeal in the same or the previous year? Has the same Parent Club sought to use the data of the same AB club in the past three years? Due to problems with events outside of conformation, Larry Sorenson moved we support Doug Lundgren's proposal to include other AKC events in this policy. He had a problem with two conflicting Earth Dog events. Mike Liosis stated that the last time he checked, AKC has approved a grand total of 9 Earth Dog clubs in the whole country, so this was a rather unique situation. Larry added that this could apply to Field Trials too. Any AKC event could be involved. Charlie Garvin noted that this is already before the Board for a vote at the January meeting. Comments should be sent to Doug Lungren who will see they go to the Board. Pat asked Mike Liosis that what has been presented to the Board be sent to the committee with an explanation. We will do an email vote prior to the January meeting.

Request for Breed Pictures That Was Sent Out, Pat Laurans: There was a brouhaha on the Conference List regarding a request for breed pictures sent out by Gina DiNardo to people who were the parent club representatives at this year's Meet the Breeds. From what Pat has been able to ascertain from Gina and Dennis, they were somewhat under the gun. Some parent clubs had issues as to why they were not made aware of this. Either parent clubs are going to be perceived as the enemy to Staff and to the Board or we're going to be perceived as people who want to make things better. When we wash our laundry in public and stir it up, the Staff sees all of this. Pat doesn't know how they see the comments on the Conference List, but they see them, and what does it do? If it was you, would you be disheartened? If it was you would you feel you didn't want to work for this group of people? If it was you who just thought of this wonderful idea for parent clubs and this came up would you say, as someone has said on Staff, "I don't want to get boiled like that." Pat is asking, and asking you to pass it on, if you have something that you are concerned about, deal with it in private with the Staff member or the Board member or the Committee or whatever that has brought it forth. Because, what we are doing is we're hurting AKC, we're hurting the perception of the parent clubs, and we're hurting the Staff and the Board.

Who May Judge Specialties – and What is Required, Pat Laurans: Fran Stevens, Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers is speaking for the St. Bernard Club of America because their delegate is not here. An issue came up last month regarding the selection of judges by local specialty clubs. Several years ago the rule came out that the parent clubs could select a person ("an icon of the breed") to judge their specialty. When the new rules came out they have expanded those to include local specialty clubs asking non-approved judges who have been in the breed 15 years and meet some other requirements. In some cases this is good and in other cases not so good. It came to the parent club because the parent club has to approve this person. This can create all kinds of problems. Peter Piusz read a response from Tim Thomas who is in charge of Judges Approval. The issue arose because the language of the new policy is not clear. The policy is that specialty clubs, by request, may invite eligible individuals for approval to judge their events. Requirements for an applicant judge: Any eligible individuals, including but not limited to professional handlers, may be approved on a case by case basis per event, with approval from the parent club, for approval to judge a Parent Club National or Parent Club Regional events. The person must be 21 years of age or older, must be occupationally eligible except that professional handlers may be approved under this policy, should be knowledgeable with success in breeding, exhibiting and handling in the breed for 15 or more years, must take a procedure and knowledge test of the breed, if applicable. A $25.00 fee per breed is required for non-approved judges. A specialty club may be referred to as any breed club. Given the fact this has been modified from the previous policy, Staff requested clarification from the Board on its intent. Peter will post this information on the Parent Club Delegate List.

On a motion by Connie Butherus, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mays, Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association
Secretary