AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
Delegates Meeting  
March 9, 2010

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

Mr. Sprung: If there is any Delegate present who has not given his or her name to one of the computer operators at the registration desk outside of the meeting room, please be sure to do so, as this is the official record of attendance.

If a Delegate makes an amendment to the Bylaws or rules to be voted upon, please provide a written copy to the Executive Secretary. It is most important that the Chair have the specific wording, as this will greatly enhance our ability to project the precise words to be considered on the screens.

The Chair would like to introduce the persons seated with me on the podium. On my immediate left is our Chairman, Ronald Menaker. To his left is our Vice-Chairman, Dr. Tom Davies. On my right is Doris Abbate, Professional Registered Parliamentarian. To her right is Jim Crowley, the Executive Secretary, and to Jim's right is Mark Schaffer, the Court Reporter.

Today is the annual election of Directors. The Executive Secretary will now read the report of the Nominating Committee and the report on additional nominations.

Mr. Crowley: Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, the Nominating Committee, Constance B. Vanacore, Chair, Irish Setter Club of America; Karen H. Burgess, Greater Clark County Kennel Club; Ruth W. Crumb, Mount Vernon Dog Training Club; Martha Feltenstein, American Tibetan Mastiff Association; David H. Hopkins, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois, appointed by the Board of Directors on August 10, 2009, has nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 9, 2010. There are three vacancies for the Class of 2014.

The Class of 2014: Dr. Charles J. Garvin, representing Marion Ohio Kennel Club; Dr. William R. Newman, representing Mastiff Club of America; Patricia C. Scully, representing Obedience Training Club of Hawaii.

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, the following Delegates have been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2014, to be filled at the annual meeting of the Club on March 9, 2010: Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, representing the German Shepherd Dog Club of America; Steven D. Gladstone, representing Reno Kennel Club.

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws provide that no nominations may be made from the floor. Nominations therefore closed on November the 13th, 2009.

Delegates are reminded that elections are held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, which requires a majority vote to elect.

There are three vacancies to be elected today. When more than three candidates receive a majority vote, the three receiving the highest number of votes are elected. When less than three candidates receive a majority vote, the candidates receiving a majority vote are elected, and all other candidates remain on the ballot for the necessary repeat balloting.

Vote for no more than three. Only one vote per candidate will be counted. A totally blank ballot is not counted towards the majority. A ballot with more than three votes is invalid;
however, it does count towards the majority. In order to facilitate the tabulation of ballots, please fold your ballot only in half.

After the results of each ballot are reported, the Chair will give ample time and opportunity for any candidate who wishes to withdraw. As is our practice, the election procedures will be overseen by our accounting firm, KPMG. The ballots will be scanned and tabulated electronically. When you have voted, please return to your seat so that we may proceed with the meeting.

All candidates have been offered the opportunity to observe the election procedures. After it appears that everyone present has voted, the Chair will inquire if anyone who wishes to vote has done so, and then the polls will be declared closed. Additional ballots, if necessary, will be cast during this meeting.

Delegates are reminded that there are eight polling stations in the back of the room. Please line up by your last name and provide the tellers with your name and your club’s name.

The staff will now distribute ballots and the polls are open.

(Voting)

Mr. Sprung: Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. Is there anyone who wishes to vote who has not done so? Hearing none, the Chair declares the polls are closed. We will now continue with the balance of the meeting.

New Delegates have been requested to submit photographs for publication in the AKC GAZETTE. Any Delegate who has not submitted a photograph and wishes to do so, please see the photographer during recess or following adjournment.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of Dr. Sam Burke on December 18th, 2009. He had just been appointed as Delegate of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America on November the 9th. He served previously as the Delegate of the Shreveport Kennel Club from October 17th, 1991 until June 1st of 2006.

Gilbert S. Kahn, the current Chair of the AKC Museum of the Dog, died on February the 22nd. Gilbert served as the Delegate of the American Shih Tzu Club from 1982 to 1985, and the Delegate of the Japanese Chin Club of America from 1985 to 2003.

The Chair calls on Jim Crowley to read the names of Delegates seated since our last meeting.

Mr. Crowley: The following Delegates have been seated since the last meeting:

Phyllis Belcastro, Leetsdale, PA, Beaver County Kennel Club
Margaret K. Curtis, Bronxville NY, Greenwich Kennel Club
Marylyn DeGregorio, Hartsdale, NY, Taconic Hills Kennel Club
Treva Faires, Andover, KS, Wichita Kennel Club
Fred G. Ferris, Middletown, CT, Connecticut River Working Group Association
Joyce Fortney, Shinnston, WV, Blennerhassett Kennel Club
Christiana Gaburri, Bellevue, PA, Old English Sheepdog Club of America
Felice Jarrold, Tucson, AZ, Old Pueblo Dog Training Club
Gail A. LaBerge, Buford, GA, Atlanta Obedience Club
Dawna E. Mauldin, Pampa, TX, Panhandle Kennel Club of Texas
Jinny Nealon, Nottingham, NH, Cheshire Kennel Club
Lilian Ostermiller, Westtown, NY, Monticello New York Kennel Club
Helen A. Prince, Port Republic, MD, Scottish Terrier Club of America
Tony Rosato, Miami, FL, Pekingese Club of America
The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval, were introduced from the floor:
Phyllis Belcastro, Leetsdale, PA, Beaver County Kennel Club
Margaret K. Curtis, Bronxville NY, Greenwich Kennel Club
Marylyn DeGregorio, Hartsdale, NY, Taconic Hills Kennel Club
Treva Faires, Andover, KS, Wichita Kennel Club
Fred G. Ferris, Middletown, CT, Connecticut River Working Group Association
Bernard F.X. Ferry, Litita, PA, Irish Terrier Club of America
Joyce Fortney, Shinnston, WV, Blennerhassett Kennel Club
Christiana Gaburri, Bellevue, PA, Old English Sheepdog Club of America
Joellen Gregory, Jefferson, MD, Otterhound Club of America
Felice Jarrold, Tucson, AZ, Old Pueblo Dog Training Club
Gail A. LaBerge, Buford, GA, Atlanta Obedience Club
Marjorie McTernan, Punta Gorda, FL, Norfolk Terrier club of America
Lilian Ostermiller, Westtown, NY, Monticello New York Kennel Club
Helen A. Prince, Port Republic, MD, Scottish Terrier Club of America
Tony Rosato, Miami, FL, Pekingese Club of America
Diane Wagner, Boca Raton, FL, Boca Raton Dog Club

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, and a sincere welcome to all of our new Delegates.
The minutes of the December 15th, 2009 meeting were published in the January GAZETTE, and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegates portal. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as printed.
Hearing no corrections, the minutes stand approved.

The next item is the approval of new Member Clubs. The following Clubs have been approved by your Board of Directors, and will be voted on today: Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America; Belle City Kennel Club.

In accordance with the Bylaws, a written ballot shall be required if requested in writing by at least five Delegates, made to the Executive Secretary seven days prior to the date at which the ballot shall be held.
The Chair has been advised by the Executive Secretary that no request has been made; we will therefore proceed with the votes. An affirmative vote of four-fifths of all Delegates is required to elect.
The question is on the election of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America as a member of the American Kennel Club.

Those in favor, please raise your hand. Thank you.
Those opposed, please raise your hand. Thank you.
There were four-fifths in the affirmative. The Chair declares that the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America has been duly elected a member of the American Kennel Club.

The question is on the election of the Belle City Kennel Club as a member of the American Kennel Club.

Those in favor, please raise your hand. Thank you.
Those opposed, please raise your hand. Thank you.
There were four-fifths in the affirmative. The Belle City Kennel Club is elected a member of the American Kennel Club.

Next on the agenda is our Chairman's report.
Mr. Menaker: Good morning. I'm sure many of you stayed up late on Sunday evening to watch the Academy Awards. Like the Oscars, AKC has its own awards programs to recognize the contributions and notable deeds among our dogs and our people. The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award, founded in 2006, recognizes the hard work and dedication of our volunteer Club members. Each year, the AKC provides an Outstanding Sportsmanship Medallion to be awarded based on criteria that each member Club selects. Once a recipient has been selected, let us know and we will be pleased to add their name to the list of winners that we have on the AKC website.

Another distinguished award, established in 1998, is the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes those who have spent the majority of their lives dedicated to the sport and to our dogs. Past honorees have included dog world greats such as Dorothy Nickles, Rachel Page Elliot, Dr. Josephine Deubler, Michelle Billings and Jane Forsyth, just to name a few. Only AKC member Clubs are able to cast a vote for this award.

For the first time this year, we have distributed the initial round of ballots to member clubs via e-mail. We ask that you please submit your choices for nominees by May 7th. Clubs may submit one nominee in each of three categories: Conformation, Companion events, and Performance. The three nominees receiving the most votes in each category will be selected as finalists. Later in the year, member clubs get to choose the winner in each category. We look forward to your continued participation in this selection process.

And finally, the award program in which we receive the most amazing, heartfelt stories continues to be our ACE Awards. For the 11th year, we will be selecting dogs that have performed exemplary acts in one of five categories: Companion, Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Service and Therapy. Heroes, like dogs, come in all shapes and sizes. ACE nominees range from skilled assistance dogs to brave law enforcement canines, as well as comforting therapy dogs.

Each year when we review all of the ACE nominations, it becomes increasingly clear how important dogs are in our day-to-day lives, as well as their role in protecting and serving our nation. We encourage you to nominate a dog that has touched a life in some way or made the world a better place. The new deadline for submission is June 1st. For more information about these award programs, visit www.AKC.org. We look forward to recognizing the people and dogs that have touched our lives. Thank you all very much.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Ron. Next is the President's report.

Picking up on Ron’s theme, I am delighted to announce the establishment of two new awards that highlight the American Kennel Club’s ongoing commitment to preserving the rights of responsible dog breeders and owners. The James S. Holt Memorial Award for Promotion of Responsible Dog Ownership in Legislation will annually honor one legislator in each state who demonstrates a commitment to promoting responsible dog ownership, the well-being of dogs, and whose actions advance the mission of the American Kennel Club.

The Holt Award is a memorial to the late Jim Holt who was our federal legislative consultant, participated in this sport for well over 40 years, and served us both as a Director and a Delegate.

The inaugural Holt Award is being presented to Texas State Representative Edward Kuempel at the San Antonio Kennel Club Show in conjunction with the club’s 100th anniversary event.

Our second new award, named for the late Director of the AKC Government Relations Department Walter Bebout, will recognize federations and groups who have been...
actively involved in educating legislators about responsible dog ownership issues and have worked to preserve the rights of responsible owners and breeders. These awards will recognize those who make an impact on the legislative issues we face, and also celebrate the diligent work of our supporters. And now I am sure you remember that last year at our March meeting, I was privileged to honor three long-time employees for their outstanding service to your clubs, and for their long-term commitment to the American Kennel Club. This morning I will recognize three additional outstanding employees.

Our first honoree is someone who has had his hand in literally every page of the *GAZETTE, Family Dog* and New Puppy Handbook. His meticulous editor’s eye has reviewed all of our published materials since 1998, but he has done so much more. He regularly writes full-length breed profiles, as well as the columns Dog Sport 101, The ACE Files, Times Past and AKC Updates. All of us also appreciate his extraordinary artistic talent on display in the popular “Dog People” page, his affectionate drawings of well-known fanciers.

Considered a true Renaissance man by his peers, Bud Boccone, our Publications Copy Editor, please join me on the podium.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: Our next honoree is a familiar face to most of you. Following in her parents' footsteps, she has had a lifelong involvement with purebred dogs, primarily Doberman Pinschers, attending shows since she was two years of age and exhibiting her first dog at five. She started as an administrative assistant from 1995 to 1999, and returned to AKC as the Advertising Sales Manager with the *GAZETTE* in 2001. A year later, she was named Director of Club Communications. In 2004 she was promoted to Jim Crowley's right-hand woman as Assistant Executive Secretary, ensuring the maintenance of AKC policies and historical records, with the added responsibilities of the Publications, Event Management, Travel and Project Management Departments all reporting to her.

In 2006, her promotion was to AVP/Assistant Executive Secretary; these responsibilities are in addition to being a media spokesperson. We are most fortunate to have Gina DiNardo in the AKC family.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: If you have ever called AKC with almost any type of customer service question, our next recipient is one of the best people to answer it. A lifelong fancier starting in Manchester Terriers and later English Cockers, she has been a member of the American Manchester Terrier Club since 1968. Hired in 1990 as the Associate Director of Judging Research and Development, then serving as Director of Judges Applications and Director of Judges Education, she was promoted to the AVP of Corporate Training and Development in 2002, AVP of Special Services in 2005, and AVP of Customer Service in 2006.

She currently directs all aspects of AKC's Customer Service, including the Call Center and the Special Services Unit which is dedicated to our core fanciers. She is also responsible for managing initiatives such as our PAL Program and our Foundation Stock Services.

Another second-generation dog person, Mari-Beth O'Neill has dedicated her career to the sport and to the improvement of dogs. We're proud to have her with us.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: I would like to call forward three Delegates who have made outstanding contributions as long-term members of our fancy. We are proud to thank them today for their dedication and contributions.
Patricia Laurans, representing the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, is a 30-year Delegate, past Board member and currently Chair of the Parent Club Committee. She started out in dogs as a Doberman Pinscher exhibiter in 1963. Her Laurwyn line of German Wirehaired Pointers produced four National Specialty winners, three Best in Show dogs and many top producers.

During her time on the AKC Board, Pat helped launch the Breeder Education program and was, and continues to be, a major supporter of Junior Showmanship. She has chaired the Coordinating Committee and was instrumental in the establishment of the Parent Club Conference.

Pat voluntarily stepped forward to assist management and staff in our Meet the Breeds initiatives, helping to make it the success we all appreciate.

Pat is a founding member and Vice President of Take the Lead, the distinguished charitable organization that assists individuals in the sport who have terminal or life-threatening illnesses.

Thank you, Pat.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: Mary Price has been a member of the Newfoundland Club of America since 1970, serving on the board as Recording Secretary, Membership Chair and Delegate for the past 25 years. Since her start in conformation and obedience in the late '60s, Mary has bred many fine Newfoundlands, including National Specialty and High in Trial winners and has won the Top Show Dog of the Year from her Parent Club.

As the very first recipient of the Club's Isabel Kurth Award, which has only been bestowed a handful of times over the past quarter century, she has been honored for her continual and long-term contributions to her Club. Mary is also on the Parent Club's Charitable Trust Board and has served her Land O'Lakes Kennel Club since starting in the sport as a Board member, Recording Secretary, Chief Steward and Assistant Show Chair.

Mary, thank you.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: Helma Weeks is the Delegate for the Bucks County Kennel Club after performing that same service for the American Bullmastiff Association. A member of her Parent Club since 1968, Helma has served as Treasurer, Vice President and Judge's Education Chair. Litters she bred have produced over a dozen champions. Belonging to the Bucks County Kennel Club since 1976, she has served as Treasurer and Hospitality Chair. For many years she was the unofficial Assistant Show Chair under the renowned Dr. Josephine Deubler, but now officially serves as Show Chairwoman as well.

Professionally, Helma has been a writer and editor. Before retiring, she was Director of Communications for the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

Helma, thank you.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: And now our Chairman, Ron Menaker, will present to each of you, our valued friends and employees, a special token of our appreciation, an AKC Medallion in recognition of your dedication and great accomplishments to dogs, the sport and the American Kennel Club.

(The awards are presented.)

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: Lastly, as always, we welcome your helpful suggestions. In matters of registration, please speak with Dave Roberts; Canine Partners ideas are invited by Doug Ljungren, and for any of our events, please meet with Curt, Robin or Doug. We thank you in advance for your input.
The Chair calls on Jim Stevens for our annual financial report.

Mr. Stevens: Good morning. Jim Crowley has previously notified you that 2009’s audited financial statements were available for your review on the Delegates’ portal. If you suffer at all from insomnia, we strongly recommend reading these audited financials. These financials consolidate the results of AKC, CAR, the AKC Humane Fund and AKC’s Political Action Committee. This treatment is required by generally accepted accounting principles. Given the recent accounting rules and expanded footnote disclosures, these financials are not the easiest to decipher. In order to keep things relatively simple and provide you with some transparency, we’ll primarily cover AKC’s separate results with you today.

In comparing 2009’s revenues with the prior year, there were increases from sponsorships of $434,000, and over $100,000 generated from the staff’s enhancements to the CGC & STAR programs. This was good news.

Unfortunately, we didn’t fare so well in some other areas. The rate of erosion in our core revenues accelerated last year. Registration revenues were lower than 2008 by more than $4 million. In addition, other major revenues that are correlated to registrations were down significantly. Sales of pedigrees and royalty related revenues were each approximately $1 million lower than the prior year. The latter was due to our affinity credit card having fewer cardholders that spent less money with their cards. We also experienced reduced revenues from our licensing activities last year due to the poor economic climate.

We’re disappointed that we don’t have better news to offer you regarding our registrations. We registered 309,000 litters last year. This amount was 12% fewer than the previous year and well below 12 years ago when we registered 564,000 litters. The 2009 trend with dogs was also not encouraging. Approximately 650,000 dogs were registered last year. This represented a decrease of 9% from the prior year and a 57% decline from the peak back in 1992.

Let’s now shift gears and review the financial impact from our events last year. The total number of AKC events in 2009 increased by 3% from the previous year. However, the total number of entries for the year was down by 1 ½%.

AKC’s events produced a net loss of over $10 million last year. We remain very concerned about whether our seriously declining registrations will be able to continue to adequately subsidize the loss from events in the future.

Another area of interest is our publications. In 2009 publications produced a net loss of $1.2 million. This was actually an improvement of $200,000 from the previous year, despite revenues declining by $483,000 or 15%.

Due to the difficult economic climate, our advertising revenues were 20% lower than the prior year, while subscriptions dropped by 10%. This was in line with industry trends. However, keeping a full court press on the department’s expenses lowered them by $700,000 or 15%, which was a very meaningful cost savings.

If we then drill down into the details of our publications, you’ll see that the number of paid subscribers for the Gazette has steadily declined for the past few years and was down to just over 27,000 at the end of last year. Family Dog also had fewer paid subscribers, which numbered less than 100,000 at the end of last year. A major factor in this decline was fewer people opting to incur the added expense for the gold combination registration package, which includes a magazine subscription. This was then further compounded by the reduced number of registrations.

On a more positive note, management remained extremely focused on cost containment last year. These proactive efforts led to a reduction in our operating expenses of $5.7 million, or
9% from the prior year. Half of these savings were achieved by lowering our payroll & benefits expenses by almost $3 million or 9%. Our total headcount was reduced by 7% at the end of last year.

Most of our other expenses were also decreased across the board by management in every department being especially diligent. This was truly a successful team effort in attaining these favorable results.

It’s clear that last year was a very challenging year from a financial perspective, given the depressed state of the economy.

In summary, AKC’s operations produced an operating surplus of $2 1/2 million last year. While slightly lower than the prior year, we were generally pleased with this result. 2009’s total revenues of over $60 million were $6 million or 9% less than the prior year. Fortunately, we were successful in recouping most of this revenue shortfall by reducing our total expenses by $5.7 million from the previous year.

AKC’s Bylaws require that the amount of the Board’s expenses be reported annually to the Delegates. The total amount of such expenses in 2009 was $270,235.

We’ve periodically presented to you in the past how our core activities have performed vs. non-core activities. In 2009, core activities yielded a loss of $6 1/2 million. This was an improvement from the prior year due to successful cost reductions. However, our net income from non-core activities declined by almost $2 million due to lower alternative revenues last year. This was not unexpected, since we have been predicting how these other revenues will erode as registrations continue their decline.

Let’s now shift gears into the world of investments where 2009 was a pleasant surprise. As most of you may recall, at this time last year we noted how we absorbed significant investment losses in 2008 due to the horrific performance of the stock markets that year. Fortunately, with the markets rebounding in 2009, our investments generated a gain of almost $11 million last year. While this represented a record amount of annual gains from our investments, it’s worth noting that we’ve only recouped approximately 60% of the prior year’s losses. From a performance perspective our investments returned almost 21% last year. This surpassed our portfolio’s benchmark by more than 2%, which was very good.

The next area we’d like to share with you is what our current balance sheet looks like. This is a snapshot of our overall financial condition at the end of last year. Our consolidated total assets increased by approximately $16 million primarily due to the appreciation of our investments. Our total liabilities were $1 1/2 million lower than the prior year. This resulted in consolidated net assets (which is analogous to stockholders’ equity in a for profit company) increasing by 54% in 2009. This is extremely positive.

We continue to be fiscally prudent by maintaining reserve balances as we have over the past few years. At the end of last year, the operating reserve balance was $31 million and the endowment reserve amount was almost $24 million. We are certainly grateful for having established these reserves. They will be beneficial as we face some very difficult financial challenges in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, last March we referred to the film *The Perfect Storm* to describe the economic recession and dismal performance of the stock market in 2008, and how that impacted us. It’s clear that we still face a variety of obstacles. Many of you may have questions about what the future holds in terms of AKC’s finances... There’s really no simple answer to that, but the name of a recent film you might have seen perhaps says it best – It’s complicated!

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Jim.
The Chair now calls on the Chair of the Tellers Committee, Kim Johnson of KPMG, to read the results of the balloting for the Class of 2014.

Ms. Johnson: Good morning. The total number of ballots cast was 396. The number of invalid ballots was one. Therefore, the majority to elect was 198 ballots. The results of the ballots were as follows: Dr. Carmen Battaglia, 175; Dr. J. Charles Garvin, 238; Steven Gladstone, 172; Dr. William Newman, 217; and Patricia Scully, 218. (Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: The Chair declares that Dr. J. Charles Garvin, Dr. William Newman and Patricia Scully have been elected as Members of the Class of 2014. As there is no further balloting, we will continue with the meeting.

Before proceeding to voting on the proposed amendments, let’s review the process to help all Delegates consider the amendments. AKC staff will project the proposed amendment that Delegates are being asked to consider on the screens. The proposed amendment will be typed and shown on the screens. If the amendment is adopted, the screens will reflect the proposal as amended. If an amendment is not adopted, the screens will project the originally proposed amendment that Delegates are asked to consider as thus amended or not amended. The Chair intends to take a standing vote, as a two-thirds vote is required to adopt a Bylaw or rule amendment. If necessary, the Chair will take an additional counted vote. Today’s first vote is on the proposed amendments to Chapter 3, Sections 1, 16, 18, 20, and 21 of Rules Applying to Dogs Shows and Chapter 2 of Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline Registration -- Registrable Breeds By Group. This amendment would split the Sporting and Hound Groups, and the Non-Sporting Group would be renamed the Companion Group and a new Northern Group would be created. If this amendment is adopted, all references to the number of Groups must be changed to accommodate the new number of Groups. This has been published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and is on the green worksheet. This vote was postponed from the September 2009 meeting.

Since the original proposal was made, some Parent Clubs have expressed dissatisfaction with their breeds’ proposed placement. Other clubs have raised logistical and cost issues. Before the proposed Group realignment amendments are considered, the Chair calls on Dr. Tom Davies, Vice President of the AKC Board and Chair of the Group Realignment Committee.

Dr. Davies: Thank you, Mr. President. After the Delegates voted to defer the proposed amendment on realignment to this meeting, the Realignment Committee reconsidered its recommendations. As the Chairman of that committee, I reported to the AKC Board in November that a majority of the committee members felt that the matter needed further study.

The Committee continues to believe that the eventual realignment of the Group structure will be necessary; but based on input from Parent Clubs and the fancy, the current proposal may not be ideal. In the best interests of the sport, the Committee suggests that the realignment proposal needs further discussion and refinement. The influx of new breeds, six this year alone, along with the current list of FSS breeds that will likely be advanced in the near future as a result of recent Board action, suggests that a reassessment of the Committee’s recommendations may be necessary and desirable.

Therefore, I move that the proposed amendment be referred back to the Board.
Unidentified Delegate: Second.

Mr. Sprung: There is a motion and a second.
Is there any discussion on the motion to commit only?
The Chair recognized Patricia Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, who spoke as follows:
I am speaking now as the Chairman of the Parent Club Committee. At our committee meeting on Monday, Dr. Davies and the two members of our committee, John Nielsen and Karen Burgess, discussed this with our committee. Our committee voted unanimously to support the wish of the Realignment Committee regarding the postponement. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.
The Chair Recognized William Green, Delegate for the Rio Grande Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
Although the need to go back and reevaluate this proposal is obvious, my club wonders and I wonder, whether we might be better off to simply start with a new slate, a clean sheet of paper, rather than prolong the current proposal further than it has been carried on already. In other words, give it an up or down vote today.
If, as might be expected, the current proposal would fail, the Realignment Committee could still work on a new proposal, but starting from scratch, rather than trying to patch up what we already have. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.
We have a motion and a second on the floor. This will be a majority vote to commit back to the Board.
All those in favor of committing the matter, please stand. Thank you.
All those opposed, please stand. Thank you.
There is a majority in favor of committing the matter to the Board.

Next is the vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 6 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows; Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility. The proposed amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This amendment would eliminate the use of telegrams to change or cancel entries, as telegrams are now obsolete.
It has been published in two issues of the GAZETTE, and is on the yellow worksheet. The Board recommends its approval; a two-thirds affirmative vote is required for adoption.
Is there any discussion?
The question is on Chapter 11, Section 6 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows; Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility.
Those in favor, please stand. Thank you.
Those opposed, please stand.
There are two-thirds in the affirmative, and the amendment is adopted.

The next vote is on the proposed amendment to Chapter 10, Sections 1 through 6 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Duties and Responsibilities of Show Veterinarians, and Chapter 15, Section 1, of Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Protests Against Dogs. The proposed amendments were brought forward by the Delegates Dog Show Rules Committee.
These changes would update the requirements for show veterinarians to better accommodate on-call veterinarians and to require clubs to inform them of their duties. It has been published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE, and is on the blue worksheet. Your Board recommends its approval. A two-thirds affirmative vote is required to adopt. Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognized Dr. Anne Gallant, Delegate for the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America, who spoke as follows.

I apologize to the Board and to the Dog Show Rules Committee, because I've come very late to the party. I was not in the December meeting, and reading them in the GAZETTE, I became concerned that these rules are not written as clearly and as well as this body can produce.

I'm concerned that these rules need to be clear, because this is a major responsibility for an event-giving Club and the Show Chairman. I understand the intent. I don't disagree with that. But we talk about in Section 3 at Benched shows, and you can have an on-call; and then it goes over into Section 4, the duties of the veterinarian; it doesn't really specify if that's the show veterinarian on-site or on-call. I think that needs to be clarified. It talks about the show veterinarian not to be called to treat dogs with non emergency conditions, but they may request payment for other than emergency, which means non emergency. So I just think that this needs to be written -- to be written better. Over on Chapter 15, it says that the request to have a dog examined must be in writing signed by the person to the event chairman; over on the sidebar, it says that it's the event committee. Well, the event committee is not the event chairman. I don't think an event chairman should be called on to act as a veterinarian to say, "you have got to take this dog off site, either to your own veterinarian or to the on-call veterinarian." I don't think that's appropriate. I do think there's a possibility it could be misused, but I don't think that's a position we want to put the veterinarian in. I think there's a lot of good here, but I think it could be written much more clearly and much more specifically.

I propose it goes back to the Rules Committee.

Dr. Gallant: I make a motion that this goes back to the Dog Show Rules Committee for further work.

MR. SPRUNG: Is there a second?

Unidentified Delegate: Second.

Mr. Sprung: Is there discussion on this motion?

Mr. Crowley: What we are discussing is the motion to refer this back to the Dog Show Rules Committee.

Mr. Sprung: Is there any discussion on the motion to send it back to the Dog Show Rules Committee?

We'll have a standing vote, requiring a majority, to send it back to the Dog Show Rules Committee.

All those in favor of sending this amendment back to the Dog Show Rules Committee, please stand. Thank you.

All those opposed to sending it back, please stand.

It is adopted to send it back to the Dog Show Rules Committee.
The Chair recognized Edmund Sledzik, Delegate for the American Lhasa Apso Club, who spoke as follows:
I just need an interpretation of the first paragraph. We're a National Breed Club. Our members, three or four of them, are veterinarians; they come from different parts of the country. If I read this correctly, we can't use our members any longer as veterinarians, because they are not practicing medicine in Pennsylvania; they are practicing in Colorado, Washington State or Massachusetts. Am I wrong on this? So we can't use any of our people any more?

The Chair called on Robin Stansell, Vice President Event Operations, to answer the question:
Mr. Stansell: Yes. This was reviewed by several veterinarians, and they unanimously felt that they needed to be licensed in the state where the show is being held in order to practice veterinary medicine there.

Mr. Sledzik: Before it said, "any reputable person who is in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who has been duly qualified to practice his profession by law." It doesn't say "in the city." It says "by law," and these people do that.

Mr. Sprung: This is going back to the Rules Committee and your point will be addressed.

The Chair recognized Dr. Patricia Haines, Delegate for the Cincinnati Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
As a veterinarian, you are licensed in specific states to practice medicine, so it's not an issue of the AKC imposing this rule; it's the issue of the licensing boards of the States imposing this rule on the veterinarian practice.

The Chair recognized Vanessa Weber, Delegate for the English Toy Spaniel Club of America, who spoke as follows:
I know that when you are dealing with people, there is such a thing called The Good Samaritan Law, where if you are on an airplane and somebody gets sick and there is a doctor on board, the doctor is not punished for trying to treat the patient. Perhaps something like that should or could occur with dogs at a show that would deal with that issue. But if the Rules Committee could look into it from that perspective, that would be great. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.
The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds, Rules for Pointing Breed Field Trials.

This amendment is to Chapter 14, of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds, Rules for Pointing Breed Field Trials. The amendment would establish minimum standards for National Championship events. This amendment was brought forward by the Performance Events Department of the AKC and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE, and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2010 meeting.

Mr. Sprung: The Chair now calls on John Lyons, Chief Operating Officer, to announce some additional honors and awards.
Mr. Lyons: I am pleased to announce the first quarter AKC 2010 Community Achievement Awards. This award is given to clubs and AKC federations and their members who have made outstanding contributions to public education or canine legislation activities. Each honoree receives an AKC certificate of recognition, and the AKC donates $1,000 to each honoree's Club or federation. Details about the honoree's accomplishments are published in the *AKC GAZETTE* and featured on the AKC website. The first quarter honorees are Tom and Barbara Bishop of the New Brunswick Kennel Club; the Bayou Kennel Club Delegate, Wayne Boyd, Delegate; and the Bismarck Kennel Club. Please join me in congratulating this quarter's honorees. 

(Applause.)

Next we are pleased to announce that Golden Gate Basset Rescue is the latest recipient of a grant from the AKC Humane Fund. Golden Gate Basset Rescue is the tenth organization to receive a grant from the AKC Humane Fund in less than one year. The fund is proud to support AKC clubs in this very important cause. On February 23rd, the United States Senate passed Senate Resolution 393, honoring the American Kennel Club for its service to dog owners and the United States public. This measure and its companion House Resolution 160 have now passed both the House and the Senate, giving formal national and Congressional recognition to the American Kennel Club for dedication to our mission of promoting responsible dog ownership through public education programs, and by protecting the rights of all dog owners for the continued enjoyment of their companions. Congratulations to our Government Relations Department for a job well done. 

(Applause.)

It's also my pleasure to announce that the AKC Publications Department was the recipient of six awards at the Dog Writers Association of America awards banquet on Sunday, February 14th, including Best All-Breed Magazine for the *AKC GAZETTE*. Also, our book entitled *Dogs: The First 125 Years of the American Kennel Club* received the Non-Fiction Book Award from the Alliance of Purebred Dog Writers at their luncheon on February 14th. Please join me in congratulating our staff for their splendid accomplishments and their well-deserved recognition.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, John.

For your information, the June 7th, 2010 Delegates meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Hilton Atlanta Downtown Hotel. In the next few weeks, our Conference and Travel Department will send you more information and will place the hotel information on the Delegates Portal. The Chair reminds the Board of Directors to meet at the conclusion of this meeting in the Gloucester Room prior to lunch. New Delegates, once again, our photographer is outside waiting to take your photographs should you wish to do so after adjournment.

Is there any new business to come before the Delegate body?

The Chair recognized Barbara Wicklund, Delegate for the Basset Hound Club of America, who spoke as follows:
For those of you who were at the legislative caucus this morning, you heard me make an appeal for donations to a legal fund to defend the owner of the Murder Hollow Basset Hound Pack, a recognized award-winning pack of hunting bassets in Philadelphia, raided last July by the Pennsylvania SPCA with 11 dogs seized under duress. We are desperately in need of funds. The Delegates attending the caucus donated a total of $310. There are at least three times as many Delegates in this room as there were this morning. Can we please get the donations up to a thousand dollars before I leave here? Thank you. And thank you, AKC, for the grant to the Golden Gate Basset Hound Rescue organization, a very worthwhile endeavor.

The Chair recognized Blackie Nygood, Delegate for the Mispillion Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
I wanted to ask anyone who has suggestions about revising the veterinarian amendments that we wrote, please send them to me or to Linda Flynn so that we can send them to the whole committee and discuss it by e-mail before the next meeting, and that will save us time and we will welcome all of your suggestions.

Ms. Laurans: I'd like to thank all the Parent Club Delegates who got out there and got their presidents to send in the name of the person who will be attending the Parent Club Conference the last weekend in August in the Raleigh-Durham area. There are few of you who did not get a name on the list. There are a few of you who have not gotten your response in, and there are few of you whose responses were invalid because the person who sent it in as President is not the person who is listed as President of your Club on the AKC list. So besides asking you all to personally check with your President and see if that has been sent in, would you each please check with your President and check the AKC website to see if your current list of officers is correct? In many instances, it is not. Thank you.

The Chair recognized David Hopkins, Delegate for the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois, and Chair of the Field Trials and Hunting Test Events Committee, who spoke as follows:
And I wanted to bring everyone's attention here to some remarkable honors bestowed upon one of our Committee members, John Russell, a Labrador fancier for close to 40 years. His accomplishments in the Field Trial world led to his induction into the Field Trial Hall of Fame a few weeks ago, simultaneously with the induction of one of his greatest dogs, who also entered The Field Trial Hall of Fame. This is a physical Hall of Fame located at a museum in the great crossroads of Grand Junction, Tennessee about 50 miles east of Memphis. John has had multiple Field Trial Champions, Amateur Field Trial Champions; he won the 2003 National Amateur. He has repeatedly achieved double headers with actually four different dogs; that's where a dog wins both the Amateur and Open. All HCs at one trial.
His dog that was inducted is known as National Amateur Field Trial Champion and Field Trial Champion Adams Acres Cherokee Rose. And this kind of award, which may not come to the attention of everybody that's here, shouldn't go unnoticed. It is probably comparable in the Field Trialing sport to an Olympic gold medal. And John, I'm not sure where you are seated, but I want you to stand and be recognized.
(Applause.)

The Chair recognized Patte Klecan, Delegate for the American Bouvier des Flandres Club, who spoke as follows:
I wish we had this crowd in the legislative caucus this morning to hear Patty Strand’s presentation about the downturn of not only registrations to AKC, but the purebred dogs as a whole.
I was struck in listening to Jim’s presentation about the economy and whatnot of AKC and what can we do to get AKC out there in the public. And it occurred to me that the Family Dog magazine would be a perfect publication to be in every veterinarian’s office. Gina said that it’s about $12 a year.
And I would like to suggest that everyone go back to their All-Breed Clubs and adopt this as a project, to buy subscriptions to Family Dog and try to get into as many veterinarian offices as possible, so that we can spread the word about all the wonderful things that AKC does, as well as the advantages of purebred dogs.
(Applause.)

The Chair recognized Judith Priestly, Delegate for the Companion Dog Training Club of Flint, Michigan, who spoke as follows:
In regards to the discussion this morning at the Legislative Caucus, we talked about having a press release written. I urge everybody who does a press release to follow that up with phone calls. The press release that I wrote got no attention at all until I made those phone calls, and they were very productive and very positive.
Also in relationship to that press release, I was looking at the AKC’s website for a PSA that I could use in relationship to our Responsible Dog Ownership Day. I did not find one that I felt was representative of our current environment, and I would like to suggest the development of a new one that clubs can use in their area to support our cause.

The Chair recognized Carol Williamson, Delegate for the Houston Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
Speaking this morning on behalf of the Perspectives Committee, I just want to remind everybody that the deadline for articles for the next issue of Perspectives is April the fifth. Monica Stoner will be the issue coordinator and will be delighted to hear from you, and you can try to contact me directly if you try to reach Monica and are unable to do that. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Hearing no further business, the meeting stands adjourned.
Travel home safely.
(The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.)

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