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

Mr. Sprung: The meeting will come to order. 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 this meeting room, please be sure to do so before leaving, as this is the official record of attendance. During lunch, we will honor our three newest AKC Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients.

The Chair would like to introduce the persons seated with me on the podium. On my immediate left is the Chairman, Ronald Menaker. To his left is the Vice Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies. On my right is Doris Abbate, Professional Registered Parliamentarian. To her right is Jim Crowley, the Executive Secretary and to Mr. Crowley’s right is the court reporter, Brenda Countz.

New Delegates have been requested to submit individual photographs for publication in the AKC GAZETTE. Any Delegate who has not submitted a photograph, and wishes to do so, please see the photographer after the meeting.

The Executive Secretary will now read the report on the Nominating Committee and the report on the additional nominations.

Mr. Crowley: Pursuant to Article VIII of Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, the Nominating Committee, Constance B. Vanacore, Chair, Irish Setter Club of America; Karen J. 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 Association, appointed by the Board of Directors at its August 2009 meeting, has nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 9, 2010.

There are three vacancies for the class of 2014. Class of 2014: Dr. J. Charles Garvin, Marion Ohio Kennel Club; Dr. William Newman, Mastiff Club of America; Patricia C. Scully, 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 vacancy on the Board of Directors for the class of 2014, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 9, 2010.

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, German Shepherd Dog Club of America; Steven D. Gladstone, Reno Kennel Club.

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws provide that nominations may not be made from the floor. Therefore, nominations closed on November 13th. In accordance with the Delegates Standing Rule, each candidate is allowed three minutes to address the Delegate body. Gina DiNardo will indicate to the candidates when their three minutes have expired. Candidates will speak in alphabetical order and no questions from the floor will be entertained. The Chair will now introduce the candidates for the class of 2014 in alphabetical order.

The first candidate is Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, representing the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.
Mr. Battaglia: Good morning. My career in dogs started as a young boy when my grandfather gave me a puppy. My professional career began as assistant Dean at Emory University, was followed by my work with the federal government as the Regional Administrator for the US Department of Education. During those years I owned and breed German Shepherd Dogs and today I serve as the Delegate for the GSDCA. I have remained active in the fancy and have written 4 books on breeding and continue to work with the breeding programs at TSA and the Department of Home Land Defense. During the past six years I have given 46 seminars to all-breed clubs and was invited to speak at 15 National specialties.

My assignments with AKC have also been varied. I chaired the Committee for the Future which resulted in our highly-valued DNA program. One of my proudest achievements was my 10 years as president of the AKC’s Companion Animal Recovery Program which today, has over 3 million animals enrolled. At the end of the day, leadership and education are the indispensable ingredients that make the difference.

Having said that let me say that we have a great opportunity—to refresh our brand. The AKC is a revered American brand, as well-known as other classic brands, like IBM and General Electric.

And like those brands, the AKC requires periodic invigoration, to remind our supporters of our unique value and to educate new generations about our benefits. I believe that the best way to maintain and grow our registry is to aggressively communicate the value that the AKC provides. We must develop a theme. I have suggested 6 points: Purebred registration, Policies, Programs, Performance events, Publications and People. These principles are the lifeblood of our organization and the key to our future.

We must refresh the AKC brand, with a proven message which has three elements. They all begin with the letter “R”.

The first is Responsibility. The AKC has a unique standing as the champion of Responsible Dog Ownership. Because of the increased threat of government-imposed breeding limits and breed-specific legislation, we must change our approach to anti dog legislation and stop waiting until the wolf is at the door to react. That puts us on defense.

We must change and begin to put emphasis on our own offense. We can not sit back and wait for the animal rights to launch campaign after campaign. They are well funded and they come well prepared. We can do better with a well thought-out offense. One that exposes the animal rights agenda and puts them on defense.

But our fight against the animal-rights extremists must connect our own Rights to our responsibilities. These ideas will resonate with the socially-conscious younger generation and strip credibility from PETA and HSUS. It will put them on defense.

The third “R” is Relationships. We need to be seen as more than just breeders and exhibitors. By placing more emphasis on the bond between humans and dogs, we can win the sympathy and the support of public officials.

We very much need their approval to continue our mission of Responsibility and our Right to own and breed dogs. Some have said that you can’t teach old dog new tricks! I hope my 6 principles and three R’s disprove that. We don’t need a shake-up. We need systematic change.

I thank you for the privilege of serving and ask for your vote of confidence for another four years.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Carmen. Our second candidate is Dr. J. Charles Garvin, representing the Marion Ohio Kennel Club.
Mr. Garvin: Good morning. I would like to thank the nominating committee for their consideration, and thank the delegates for this opportunity. I will briefly discuss my experience, the contributions I can bring to the board, and some of my concerns about what can be improved.

My experience is extensive; in dog competition, dog organizations, and other organizations. I started showing Dalmatians in 1965, first in obedience, then conformation. By the time I was 15, I had the top owner-handled Dalmatian in the country. I also won the Junior Showmanship finals at Westminster - a couple of years ago. With my supportive parents, including my mother Betty, who was one of the first women AKC Delegates, and with my wife Lynn (and three kids), we have produced 87 Dalmatian Champions, most of which I personally handled, and some of the top winners and producers in the history of the breed.

I have served on the AKC Board for eight years, and have been a Delegate from Marion Ohio Kennel Club since 1990, now President of that all-breed club. I serve on the Delegate Canine Health committee. I have been on the board of the Dalmatian Club of America since 1981, serving as President 12 terms. Currently, I serve on the board of the AKC Canine Health Foundation as Treasurer. I have been an AKC judge since 1980, and have judged at our national six times, as well as at Westminster, Eukanuba, the Centennial, and nationals in other countries.

In real life, I am an ophthalmic surgeon and, since 1986, President of the Smith Clinic, a 75 physician multispecialty group practice, with seven subsidiaries, 700 employees and $180 million in annual revenues. I have served on more than two dozen governing boards.

I believe the qualities I can bring to AKC are analysis, problem solving and conflict resolution. I can balance both the big picture and the essential details. My occupation demands that I can synthesize important concepts and explain them in understandable, credible terms. I do my homework, and can manage the huge work load of the AKC Board with energy and enthusiasm.

For our AKC, we need to recognize that there are legitimate differences of opinion and points of view throughout our group, but we should celebrate that diversity. I have so often found that even when people disagree with me, I find value in what they have to say. We have a wonderful opportunity to extract the benefit of the years of experience, knowledge, and talents of this Delegate body, and put that value towards the good of the organization. This will lead to better relationships among the delegates and the board and the staff. That will give us the confidence and the tools needed to aggressively challenge the animal rights radicals and others who would take our dogs and our sport away from us. It will give us - all of us - the right to proclaim our pride in breeding and competing with pure-bred dogs. Of course it is a challenging time, but by working together we can meet these challenges, honor our past, and thrive toward our future. I would appreciate your vote to help make it happen. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Charlie. The third candidate is Steven D. Gladstone, representing the Reno Kennel Club.

Mr. Gladstone: Good morning. Let's be candid. You have 5 great candidates to choose from. We each have no less than 8 years experience. We are all dedicated dog people, each devoted to the American Kennel Club.

So why should you vote for Steve Gladstone? I am perhaps a bit different. After all Charlie, Pat, Carmen and Bill: they're all nice guys.
Me? I ask the hard questions. I have spent a career as an attorney cross examining, asking questions until I get credible answers. I tell it like I see it, and often play the devil’s advocate, because it is vitally important to explore both the obvious and the not so obvious consequences of proposed actions. I don’t believe in rubber stamping. Some rejoiced, Dog News tells us, when I left the Board last March. After all, the April meeting was able to adjourn 2 whole hours earlier without me dragging things out with my questions.

Being a bully is how they like to tag me. Well, yes, I am big, steady and strong like a Bull Mastiff, persistent and tenacious like a Bulldog, and of course cute and loveable like a French Bulldog. So I guess I am Bully! Actually, my position vis-a-vis AKC has never changed from the days when I represented clients against the AKC, or when I first served here as a Delegate or during my 8 years on the Board.

I love the AKC. I love its history, I love MOST of its traditions and I love its completely selfless goal of celebrating and preserving our dogs.

On occasion my passion for the AKC has been what some consider “tough love”. I have been critical of AKC policies and positions, pointing out what I considered to be significant problems when I saw them.

The cases I took always were for the purpose of creating a better, stronger AKC. You simply can never cure a problem if you have not identified it. That’s one of the things I’m good at. That’s part of what I do in the Board room. I’m sure that’s why Ron appointed me to serve as Chairman of the Board’s Audit Committee.

Trained as a lawyer and businessman at the University of Pennsylvania, I am a successful entrepreneur, who brings a wealth of practical competitive business experience to the table.

As President of my parent club, the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, I am fully familiar with and sympathetic to the issues facing our breeders and clubs. I am concerned about the image we are being saddled with by those with agendas polar to ours. We need to aggressively present ourselves as the true protector of the welfare of dogs. We need to blow our own horn and stand up to those who would mischaracterize and defame us. We need creative, aggressive programs to do that. Perhaps we NEED some bulli-ness.

This election is kind of like judging a lineup of 7 magnificent dogs in Best in Show. You have 5 outstandingly qualified candidates, each deserving of your support. So why vote for Steve Gladstone? You already have a dozen nice guys on the Board. That’s enough. Thank you!

(Appause)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Steve. The fourth candidate is Dr. William Newman representing the Mastiff Club of America.

Dr. Newman: Good Morning. It is unusual for me to stand before you today to introduce myself to a group with whom I have been associated for 15 years. Our organization is such that we operate in a traditional way and since we seat in the neighborhood of 60 new Delegates a year, many of you may not know who I am or what I stand for regarding the philosophy of the sport and its future.

When elected three years ago as a new director, I looked forward enthusiastically to what new horizons we could reach with a new direction, changing what needed to be changed and reinforcing that which works well.
My naiveté soon became apparent when attempts to introduce a mixed-breed program was met with opposition that delayed its implementation until this year. Three of the other candidates voted against the original motion and it was not until new board members were elected last year that were we able to proceed with a program that may be the lifeline to maintaining our sport as we know it.

Yes, we need to vigorously pursue the registration of every puppy in every AKC litter to support the organization and the charitable programs that we finance. Full litter registration can increase our figures to make our organization more attractive to those who support our alternative revenues.

However, even if the commercial sector were to return in force, those revenues will not return us to our previous levels. We must accept the fact that we will never return to the days of the sixties and seventies when the American family was moving to suburbia, starting families, buying big cars, getting an AKC puppy for the household and raising an occasional litter. Times have changed, many do not marry, and the dogs that they acquire are often those from rescue or the humane societies.

Believe me I do not accept a defeatist attitude, I never have and never will, nor will I ever accept business as usual. We must face the reality that we have to reconstruct our organization to compete in the 21st century with numerous enemies in the legislative and media arenas who are fueled by the animal rights people and the affluent HSUS. The Canine Partners Program hopefully will give us the numbers, impetus and political clout to better articulate who we are and the good that we do. Our outreach to the Veterinary community will continue, together with the initiatives Dr. Haines and I have taken as liaisons to AVMA. My program to partner with local Humane Societies is working but needs impetus to grow. A spay and neuter program for these local Humane Societies needs to be supported by us and our local clubs, showing our concern for responsible dog breeding and ownership.

Succinctly, we need to establish a new business plan for the organization, never forgetting our core values and purpose, but realizing that we need to reach out to the entire population of dog owners and supporters. We need to step up publicly to assume the role we have had and must continue to have, and that is, to be the most knowledgeable active dog body in the world, concerned with the health and well being of all canines. If you feel as I do that we have a future, then support me with your vote and I shall do my best to never let you or your dogs down.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Bill. The fifth candidate is Patricia C. Scully representing the Obedience Training Club of Hawaii.

Ms. Scully: Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, fellow Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I have some good news for you. As Elizabeth Taylor said to her eighth husband, do not worry, I will not be keeping you that long.

I am honored to be a candidate of the Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors class of 2014. I have frequently attended venues in Performance and Companion Events. I am a strong supporter of the total dog, titles before the dog's name and titles after the dog's name.

The primary goals of the AKC should be:

1) to protect the rights of all dog owners. This involves fighting breed specific legislation and mandatory spay/neuter laws. If we lose the right to own and breed dogs, all other issues will be insignificant. The barbarians are knocking at the door; and, this is one battle we must win.
2) to increase registrations and stop the severe decline. From 1992 through 2008, registrations have decreased 50 percent and only 40 to 45 percent of all purebred dogs are registered with the American Kennel Club.

3) to be accountable to the needs of our breeders, club members, judges, exhibitors, and all members of the fancy. These are our customers.

4) And something very important to me personally, to keep open and improve the lines of communication and trust among the Board, the AKC staff, the Delegate body, and the fancy. I am a team player and a consensus builder.

I'm asking you to vote for Pat Scully because I possess expertise in several areas, and am able to offer various viewpoints.

I'm retired and I have the time to devote to the Board. I had a 100 percent attendance rate at past Board meetings.

We need to start to think out of the box and not do business as usual, otherwise we will go the way of the dinosaurs. If a corporation has cash flow problems and decreased revenues, the business model must be leaner and more efficient for the enterprise to remain profitable. Please vote for Pat Scully for continuity, stability and long range planning. And let's always remember, dogs are not our whole lives, but they are what make our lives whole.

Thank you, and Aloha from Honolulu.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Pat.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of three Delegates. Dr. Steven Blau, Delegate for the Greenwich Kennel Club since March 2001, died on September 22. Ken Wadley, Delegate for the first Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey since October 9, 2007, died on October 8th. And Virginia Mayhall, Delegate for the Atlanta Obedience Club since October 7, 1991, died on November 17th.

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:

Ricky Blackman, Franklin, WI, to represent Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club
Mary Ann Brocious, Milford, MI, to represent Ann Arbor Kennel Club
Dr. Sam F. Burke, Jr., Shreveport, LA, to represent Doberman Pinscher Club of America
Carol Clark, Waverly, MO, to represent Border Collie Society of America
Gay Dunlap, Gilbert, AZ, to represent Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America
David W. Galloway, Worthington, OH, to represent Central Ohio Kennel
Joellen Gregory, DVM, Jefferson, MD, to represent Otterhound Club of America
Hon. Janet G. Harner, Pittsburg, PA, to represent Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association
Judy Hiller, Mentor, OH, to represent Clumber Spaniel Club of America
Sharyn Hutchens, Lexington, VA, to represent Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club
Donna Kranzberg, Sarasota, FL, to represent Cornhusker Kennel Club of Lincoln, Nebraska
Betty McDonnell, Mahwah, NJ, to represent Norwich Terrier Club of America
Sheila Favro Marks, Lakeland, FL, to represent Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club
Susan Olsen, Chicago, IL, to represent International Kennel Club of Chicago
Shirley Sanders, Elon, NC, to represent Carolina Dog Training Club
Kimberlee Schiff, Port Jeris, NY, to represent German Pinscher Club of America
Dr. Geno Sisneros, Montgomery, AL, to represent American Pomeranian Club
Diana L. Skibinski, Crown Point, IN, to represent Lake Shore Kennel Club
Evelyn Van Uden, Ransomville, NY, to represent Irish Water Spaniel Club of America
Diane Wagner, Boca Raton, FL, to represent Boca Raton Dog Club
Sandee White, Boonville, IN, to represent Miniature Pinscher Club of America

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval, were introduced from the floor:
Ricky Blackman, Franklin, WI, Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club
Carol Clark, Waverly, MO, Border Society of America
Kathy De La Garza, South Houston, TX, Galveston County Kennel Club
Gay Dunlap, Gilbert, AZ, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier of America
David Galloway, Worthington, OH, Central Ohio Kennel Club
Judy Hiller, Mentor, OH, Clumber Spaniel Club of America
Sharon Hutchens, Lexington, VA, Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club
Betty McDonnell, Mahwah, NJ, Norwich Terrier Club of America
Sheila Favro Marks, Lakeland, FL, Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club
Susan Olsen, Chicago, IL, International Kennel Club of Chicago
Shirley Sanders, Elon, NC, Carolina Dog Training Club
Gene Sisneros, Montgomery, AL, American Pomeranian Club
Diane Skibinski, Crown Point, IN, Lake Shore Kennel Club
Sandee White, Bonnville, IN, Miniature Pinscher Club of America

Mr. Sprung: Thank you and a sincere welcome to all of our new Delegates.
The minutes of the September 15, 2009 Delegates meeting were published in the October 2009 AKC GAZETTE and the complete transcript was posted on AKC's website. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as published.

Hearing no corrections, the minutes stand approved.
I now call on Mr. Menaker for the Chairman's report.

Mr. Menaker: Good morning. I hope you all had a wonderful time this weekend. It was a memorable way to commemorate our 125th anniversary.
I would like to thank all the volunteers, stewards and parent club members who staffed the Meet the Breeds booths as well as the 133 Parent Clubs who held their supported entries and specialties with us.
I would also like to thank the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills, the Los Encinos Kennel Club and the Long Beach Kennel Club for all their hard work and for making us feel so welcome.
Our anniversary year has been filled with celebration, the marking of milestones and new opportunities. We have chronicled our accomplishments in dogs, the first 125 years of The American Kennel Club and an up-to-date version of our well-known AKC source book last printed in 1984. And I remind each of you to pick up a copy as our gift to you on your way out today, along with a show catalog, a show guide and a memorable medallion that we prepared for each of you.
In 1884 the AKC began its all pure bred dog registry with just nine breeds. As of December 30th, we will recognize 164 breeds with the addition of the Blue Tick Coonhound, the Boykin Spaniel and the Redbone Coonhound.
In addition to AKC holding several press conferences tied to our anniversary, the AKC Publications department dedicated the entire September issue of the AKC GAZETTE, which has been our official journal for the sport of purebred dogs since 1889.
One of the most exciting events and another wonderful way to commemorate our 125th anniversary was the first stand-alone Meet the Breeds event organized by the AKC and Cat Fancier's Association and presented by Pet Partners, our pet insurance company.
We celebrated our companion and performance events, hosting the National Retriever Championship just a few weeks ago, the biennial National Tracking Invitational and the ever-popular National Agility Championships.

And not to forget that the team we sent to the World Agility Championship in Austria this September returned home with two silver metals.

Also in 2009, the Obama family found their dog, a Portuguese Water Dog named Bo. The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America and the PR department worked closely to make this an opportunity to educate the public about the breed, about purebred breeds and about responsible dog ownership.

The AKC started the public conversation and followed the Obama dog campaign from President Obama's first mention of a dog, all the way through to Bo's arrival. Their work on this campaign helped them win many national and local PR awards and keep the AKC and purebred dogs front and center with pet owners.

Finally, we began looking to the AKC's next 125 years with the creation of several new programs. We launched our Star Puppy Program, a precursor to our popular AKC canine good citizenship test which will get puppies and their owners off to a good start.

The AKC Canine Partners Program also launched this year, has already listed more than 1300 dogs beginning in April 2010. More than 300 AKC clubs will be hosting stand-alone obedience, agility or rally events open to mixed breeds. Beyond the competition, millions of additional dog owners we may never have reached will be able to access a myriad of AKC resources and services, bringing together like-minded people who share our passion for dogs and our commitment to responsible dog ownership.

This has been a historic year of great achievement and progress for the American Kennel Club. In addition, I'm happy to report that despite the current economic climate, our preliminary numbers show that we will have a reasonable operating profit for the year in addition to record-breaking investment results.

Once again, I wish to thank you all for your support and look forward to another 125 years of history as the dog's champion. Thank you all very much.

Mr. Sprung: Next is the President's report.

Mr. Sprung: Meet the Breeds began as a vision. It became a shared vision and a common goal of the American Kennel Club and the Fancy to bring our unique breeds to the public on a broad scale.

We wanted to show pet-lovers not only our dogs and their endearing, predictable qualities but our responsibility, devotion and love of them.

The recent success of Meet the Breeds hosted by the American Kennel Club and the Cat Fanciers Association and sponsored by Pet Partners Pet Insurance has once again proved that when we set goals and work together, we can meet a challenge and exceed all expectations.

We invited media outlets to join us and over 40 were in attendance. Additionally, there were 15 sponsors, 90 vendors and 148 parent clubs to engage and educate the public.
We gave visitors an exciting venue, spectacular demonstrations, fabulously decorated booths brimming with happy, healthy dogs, knowledgeable experts and responsible breeders, all in a nurturing, family-friendly environment. But without you, our volunteers from member clubs, parent clubs and local specialty clubs, success would not have been possible. I want to thank our presenting sponsor, Pet Partners, for their tremendous support, the hundreds of club volunteers who came out to work, and AKC staff led by Gina DiNardo and Michael Canalizo and Pat Laurans, Chair of the Parent Clubs committee. Without all of us working as a team, we could not have held an educational program of this magnitude. To share with you the scope of Meet the Breeds, our communications department, which was instrumental in garnering pre- and post-publicity, has put together a brief presentation, including a small sampling of the media coverage for you to enjoy. (Video presentation.)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you again for helping to create this historic weekend. We are all proud of your tremendous accomplishments including this past weekend’s Meet the Breeds success and our ability to bring the American Kennel Club, our clubs, our people, responsible messaging, and most importantly our dogs front and center to the public. Thank you.

I now call on Jim Stevens for the financial report. Mr. Stevens: We’ll review with you today our 2009 year-to-date financial results through the end of last month. We thought we’d add some flavor in presenting these numbers to you in recognition of the Yankees having won the World Series this year. Sorry to you Phillies & Red Sox fans. We’ve chosen to use some quotes from Yogi Berra – known as Yogisms – to reinforce some of our points. I’m sure you’ll find some of his quotes to be very amusing.

If you attended either the June or September delegates meeting earlier this year, we described how the recession has taken its toll on our results. Unfortunately, not a great deal has changed since that time. So please don’t be surprised if much of what you hear today sounds familiar. Yogi would describe this as “It’s like déjà vu all over again”. That pretty much sums up where we are today.

As you can see here, our year-to-date revenues were less than last year. However, we were able to make up some of this difference by reducing our expenses. This resulted in an operating surplus of $1 million this year vs. $2.8 million last year. So the good news is that we’ve remained profitable on an operating basis this year despite the difficult economic climate.

Our total revenues for eleven months this year were $5.8 million or 9% lower than 2008. There’s no question that our results were severely hampered by the strong headwinds of a struggling economy.

Revenues from registrations declined from last year by $3.7 million or 13%. While we may not be pleased with that result, our inspectors in the field have observed that the number of litters bred this year was down dramatically. In addition, we understand that many pet related businesses have experienced declines of 30% in their revenues this year.

It’s no surprise that the volume of our registrations has a direct correlation to some of our other major revenue sources. Consequently, our sales of pedigrees declined from last year by $927,000 and royalties were $658,000 lower. The latter was also negatively
impacted by our affinity credit card having fewer cardholders, which spent less money
with their cards this year.
Revenues from our publications were $495,000 or 16% lower due to reduced advertising
and fewer subscribers. This followed the current trend in the publishing business.
Fortunately, our cost containment efforts have continued to be productive this year. Total
expenses to date were $4 million or 7% below last year. Payroll & benefits were reduced
by $1.4 million or 4 1/2%, while all other expenses were $2.6 million or 9% less than
2008.
Nevertheless, in many respects, we must admit that we’re not disappointed that 2009 is
almost history. We’re hopeful that an improving economy will begin to surface sometime
next year. If and when this occurs, we’re cautiously optimistic that the trend of our
operating results should also see some improvement when the economic seesaw
swings upward.
We are very much focused on initiatives to enhance our future revenues. As such, we’re
mindful of Yogi’s observation that “You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where
you are going - because you might not get there”.
Finally, we should also mention that we’ve made a few dollars on our investments this
year. Through the end of last month our 2009 investment gains stood at almost $9
million. Not bad! This compared to a loss of $17 million at this time last year, when the
stock markets were being hammered. We’ll end up this year with record investment
gains. Yogi’s insight on records is “I always thought that record would stand until it was
broken”.
So that’s what our current financial landscape looks like. We hope you enjoyed Yogi’s
entertaining commentary.
We’ll conclude with a final quote from Yogi himself. "Are you kidding me? I didn’t say half
the things I said."

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Jim.
Before proceeding to voting on proposed amendments, let’s review the process to help
all Delegates consider the amendments. AKC staff will project the proposed
amendments that Delegates are being asked to consider on the screens. Any proposed
amendment will be typed and shown on the screens. If an 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. Delegates continue the
consideration of the proposed amendment as thus amended or not amended. The Chair
intends to take a standing vote for each motion that requires a two-thirds vote. If needed,
the Chair will take an additional counted vote.

The first vote is on the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 8 of the Rules
Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Classifications.
The proposed amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules
Committee. This amendment would bring the Bred-by-Exhibitor requirements in line with
all regular classes as defined by Chapter 11, Section 1 of the Rules.
The proposal was read to you at the September 2009 Meeting. It has been published in
two issues of the GAZETTE. It is on the green worksheet. The Board recommends its
approval. A two-thirds affirmative vote is required for adoption.
Is there any discussion?
The question is on Chapter 3, Section 8 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog
Show Classifications.
Those in favor please stand Thank you.
Those opposed please stand. Thank you.
There are two-thirds in agreement and the amendment is adopted.

The next vote is on the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Sections 14 and 15 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Classifications* which would allow for awarding Grand Championship points to Best of Breed or Best Variety of Breed; Best of Opposite Sex of Breed or Variety of Breed, Select Dog and Select Bitch; and to Chapter 5, Section 1, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Ribbons, Prizes and Trophies*, which would allow for a ribbon for Select Dog and Select Bitch awards in connection with the Grand Champion of Record Title; and to Chapter 16, Section 6 and 7 of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championship* and new *Grand Championship Awards* that would allow for the creation of awards for these new titles.

The proposed amendment is a staff recommendation and is approved by the Board of Directors. The proposal was read at the September 2009 meeting. It has been published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and is on the gray worksheet. The Board recommends its approval. A two-thirds affirmative vote will be required for adoption. Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognized Gwen McCullagh, Delegate for the Huntington Kennel Club who spoke as follows:

I move to amend the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Dog Show Classification*, Chapter 3, Section 14, by striking "Neutered dogs or spayed bitches are not eligible for Grand Championship points."

And again, under Championship and Grand Championship Awards, Chapter 16, Section 6, by striking out "Neutered dogs and spayed bitches are not eligible for Grand Championship points."

Mr. Sprung: Is there a second?

Unidentified Delegate: I second it.

Mr. Sprung: Is there any discussion?

Mrs. McCullagh: May I speak to the motion?

Mr. Sprung: Yes, just let me make sure everybody is on the same playing field. What we have in front of us, is that it's been moved and seconded to amend by striking in two places, "neutered dogs or spayed bitches are not eligible for Grand Championship points."

Mrs. McCullagh: While this, at first glance, appears to be a fairly radical step, it actually is not. It has a very narrow application to a very small group of dogs in a very small group of venues. But obviously I believe it's important or I wouldn't be standing before you.

Let me try to tell you what precisely this does. The Grand Championship program is intended to provide incentives for breeders and exhibitors to continue to show their Champions and also as a secondary goal to generate additional revenues for entry from AKC. It is an add-on program. Champions of record will earn points towards their additional title by competing for Best of Breed.

All single as well as dogs and Champions entered for Best of Breed competition, all winners of single entry classes will be eligible to compete for Best of Breed and, if they are champions of record, for Grand Championship points.
But spayed and neutered dogs in general are not eligible to compete for Best of Breed, which will eliminate them automatically from earning Grand Championship points or the title.

Now, that said, there is one group of spayed and neutered Champions who are permitted to compete for breed, and that is the veteran. The veteran dog and the veteran bitch, spayed or neutered though they may be, have independent specialty shows only, may compete for Best of Breed.

The intent of that exception was to recognize that by the time a dog attains the age required to be a veteran, health issues or prophylactic intervention for health may have required them to be spayed or neutered. They probably have already made contributions to the breed.

Until now, that spayed or neutered veteran competing for breed did so on a completely equal basis to its not-neutered fellow contestants. The intent of this program, I am quite sure, is not to downgrade or denigrate any champion. And we have to, as we go forward and add additional opportunities, keep in mind the original intent of this exception, which was to let the spayed and neutered veteran compete in this specific time at independent specialties for everything that was going connected with Best of Breed competition and win.

You gave them prizes, you gave them whatever was going and now I believe we need to still recognize them fully and allow them to earn Grand Championship points.

If the amendment before you passes without this amendment, they will be eliminated from that opportunity. And so I would like to urge you to allow them to compete fully. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: Further discussion on this amendment only?

The Chair recognized Patricia Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I'm speaking as chair of the Delegate Parent Club committee. We had a very good and long discussion of this at our meeting yesterday which culminated in a vote of the Parent Club committee. The Parent Club Committee, after hearing from Gwen, others in the audience, and John Wade, have voted to support this amendment so that champion veteran dogs and bitches and independent specialties may be allowed the rights they have now and to continue that into this new and very worthwhile program. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. Any further discussion on this amendment?

The Chair recognized Larry Sorenson, Delegate for the Dachshund Club America, who spoke as follows: I do have a concern that we have used this requirement to help hold the barrier on mandatory spay and neutering. By dropping this requirement, we may weaken that wall and I would like the Delegate body to think about that.

The Chair called on Robin Stansell, Vice President Event Operations, who spoke as follows:

This may be a bit unusual but I would like to clarify one thing that perhaps people don't recognize, that although veterans may compete in independent specialties after they are altered, should that dog not be a champion, it is not eligible to retain championship points.

We do not award neutered dogs or spayed bitches championship points. We don't award championship points to any dog from the non regular classes. The intent of this wording
was to continue that practice to not award additional championship titles to dogs that are neutered or spayed.

The Chair recognized Marcy Zingler, Delegate for the Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, who spoke as follows:
I'm also quite sure that the original intent of this wording was not to foster inconsistency. If we adopt this amendment, it will be consistent with the fact that veteran dogs and veteran bitches who are spayed or neutered can, in fact, win Best of Breed. If they can win Best of Breed, they certainly ought to be able to be awarded, as Gwen said, Grand Championship points. In addition to which, and this may be a small adjustment for the amendment, it reaffirms our concern for dogs' health. It shows people that that is our primary concern and not the show.

Mr. Sprung: This is going to be a majority vote but before we vote, I want Mr. Crowley to read the amendment so it is clear to everybody.
Mr. Crowley: The amendment is strictly in two places in the proposal, to remove the sentence: "Neutered dogs or spayed bitches are not eligible for Grand Championship points."
The effect of this would be that at independent specialties only, a veteran winner which takes Best of Breed and was previously awarded a championship, would be eligible to get Grand Championship points. That would be the effect of the amendments striking these two sentences.

Mr. Sprung: This will be a majority vote. Raise your hands, please. All those in favor? Thank you.
All those opposed? Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: The majority is in favor. These amendments do pass. We will now go back to the original amendment as amended. Is there further discussion?

The Chair recognized Sidney Marx, Delegate for the Colorado Springs Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
I'm a firm believer that language and words are very important. We are all aware that in stock venues there are Grand Champions. That term usually indicates that this is something above and beyond championship status.
In this particular motion all that is necessary is for a dog to beat one champion three times but the dog need never win Best of Breed. Because of that, I make a motion that we amend it from the name Grand Champion to Champion of Merit.

Mr. Sprung: Is there a second on that motion?

Unidentified Delegate: Second.

Mr. Sprung: Is there a discussion on this particular amendment?

The Chair recognized Alan Kalter, Delegate for the American Bull Mastiff Association, who spoke as follows:
I obviously agree that language is critical in communicating anything. The program really is a marketing program. So if we think of it as a marketing program, it's a program that is to entice people to bring those dogs, once they finish them, bring them back out and
really compete to achieve something of value. So the name we put on the program actually will have a lot to do with the desire to want to continue. 

Since in the last three years there are something like 50,000 Champions of Record that have been shown six or fewer times in that three-year period, it would be a terrific opportunity for the individual clubs to not only get additional entries but to get additional people interested in the sport and interested in their clubs.

So, I think as a marketing program, since we are devoid of every other tool that we normally have in marketing, there is no advertising to be able to do this, there is no promotion. It’s basically going to have to be the name of the program and word of mouth that is going to create the energy and excitement around the program.

I will tell you from the 40-some years I did marketing, that the hardest thing you could possibly do is name something, and you will never make everybody happy. But I will encourage the Delegate body to stay with Grand Championship.

I think it is a known term and it is one that will excite and incite the people who are sitting with dogs at home on the sofa to bring them back out and participate at all our shows.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Sherry Wallis, Delegate for the Akita Club of America who spoke as follows:

I brought this up at a legislative caucus because a number of people had expressed reservations about this particular title because they have had, in the past, ranked dogs or very famous dogs that were just Champions. Their opposition to this is not actually to the idea, per se, but that they felt as if the ability to have a Grand Champion would mean that the dogs that were in the past would somehow be lesser or dogs that were too old to show would somehow be cheapened because they were just Champions. They were much more comfortable with some other name and Champion of Merit was what someone suggested and it seemed to be much more acceptable.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. Is there further discussion?

The Chair recognized Wyoma Clouss, Delegate for the Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Ms. Clouss: We’ve discussed this name on both the e-mail list and at our local kennel club meetings. The objection was not to the program but some concern about the name Grand. They thought it was a little grand. I guess we also think of Grand Champion cows or something, I don’t know. We did like ideas of Champion of Merit. There is also the issue of if this goes forward and it becomes like having a Mach, a Mach 1, 2, 3 as you progress, go beyond the first Champion of Merit or Grands, so then you have a Grand 1, Grand 2, Grand 3. The Champion of Merit could become like a CM, CM1, CM2, CM3. It was just a general feeling. The program is fine. The name should be worked on.

The Chair recognized William Green, Delegate for the Rio Grande Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

One thing I discovered while researching this name issue was that Grand Champion is already in use in the dog world. Apparently in Pit Bull circles Grand Champion is used to denote a dog that has come out the winner in five or more fighting matches. And that might be another reason for avoiding it. Thank you.
Mr. Sprung: Is there further discussion on this amendment only?

Ms. Laurans: I'm not usually the one that steps up here to be conciliatory and to try to get us to come to a centrist position. And I understand and have heard the concerns out there in terms of the word grand and I don't want the program to go down because of a name change. I appreciate the name Champion of Merit but I'm not sure it's strong enough and I'm wondering if we could come to a compromise. And the only thing I can come up with is Select Champion or something in that vein, unless someone can come up with something different. I think you need something in front of the word champion that has some punch. Meritorious champion, select champion, whatever you want to make it. But I don't think we want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Mr. Green: If this amendment fails, I will move that the name be Distinguished Champion. Thank you.

Mrs. McCullagh: Just to speak to the negative connotations of this being a title used by Pit Bulls, the title Grand Champion presently exists with Basset Hounds where we have field trial Grand Champions. And if you look at the intent, which I think most of us as breeders now have, which is to do more with less dogs because that's the reality of life, when you start putting multiple titles on the dog, we already have dual champions which are dogs that have earned a field trial championship and a bench championship, and we have grand field trial champions. So the match there would be dual Grand Champion. It works.

But if we go with some other title, it will not fit as neatly. And perhaps that's not a major consideration but I did like to say that there is a grand title in use in AKC events and it has a very positive connotation.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized William Blair, Delegate for the Progressive Dog Club, who spoke as follows:

Just to make a suggestion, premier champion. It has a little more punch.

Ms. Zingler: Aside from the one somewhat negative connotation with Pit Bulls, there are all the positive connotations in virtually all other species of livestock. There are Grand Champion cats, there are Grand Champion cattle, there are Grand Champion sheep and on and on and on. And I think all of those positive connotations go toward recognizing the fact that this perhaps is the best terminology. It is one syllable. It is widely known. It is not in contradiction or redundancy with the word champion as some suggestions might be. I think that Grand Champion says it all and it is most widely recognized.

(Applause)

Unidentified Delegate: I object to Champion of Merit on a very practical point of view. Does that mean my dog that is only a champion that doesn't have merit?

(Applause)

The Chair recognized Constance Vanacore, Delegate for the Irish Setter Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I'd like to call the question.

(Applause)
Mr. Sprung: Is there a second to the motion to call the question?

Unidentified Delegate: Second.

Mr. Sprung: Calling the question requires a majority vote. All those in favor of calling the question?
(Aye.)
Mr. Sprung: Opposed?
(No response.)
The question is called.

Mr. Sprung: The motion is to amend striking Grand Champion of Record and inserting Champion of Merit. This would be a majority vote.
All those in favor please raise your hands. Thank you
All those opposed? Thank you.
The motion does not pass.
We are back to the original amendment. Is there any further discussion?

The Chair recognized John McCullagh, Delegate for the Plainfield Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
On the gray sheet, on the second page of the gray sheet, the second paragraph underlined says, “Select Dog and Select Bitch eligible for this award are” -- and the eligibilities do not relate to Grand Champion, they relate to the previous half of the second paragraph. I think it just needs to move down towards Section 15.
Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair called on John Wade, Director of Judging Operations, to address the question.
Mr. Wade: The Select Dog and Select Bitch would be determined as Select Dog and Select Bitch, and that is the purpose of this being in this paragraph. This only addresses the order of judging. The order of judging would be Best Breed or Best Variety, Best Winners, Best of Opposite Sex and then the Select Dog and Select Bitch would be awarded, should the judge elect to do so.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Eugenia Bishop, Delegate for the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, who spoke as follows:
I agree with the Delegate. Basically that paragraph needs to be moved down to the last paragraph because those eligibility requirements are for Best of Opposite Sex, not for a Select Dog and a Select Bitch.

The Chair called on Robin Stansell, Vice President Show Events, to address this question:

Mr. Stansell: I certainly have no objection to that change. The intent is the same in either location.

Mr. Sprung: Mr. Crowley advised me that is a housekeeping detail.
The question is on Chapter 3, Sections 14 and 15 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Classifications; Chapter 5, Section 1 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Ribbons,
Prizes and Trophies; and Chapter 16, Sections 6 and 7 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championships and new Grand Championship Awards.

Those in favor, please stand. Thank you.
Those opposed, please stand. Thank you.
There are two-thirds in the affirmative. The amendment is adopted.

(Applause)

Unidentified Delegate: Excuse me. What's the effective date?

Mr. Stansell: The effective date will be the same as when we adopt the new point schedule which will be in May 2010.

The next vote is on the proposed amendments to Chapter 9, Section 1, of the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trial and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests. This amendment is recommended by the Beagle Advisory Committee and gives clubs the option of combining classes by either gender or size in order to run a more efficient trial. The proposal was read at the September 2009 meeting. It has been published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and is on the tan worksheet. The Board recommends its approval. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption.

Is there any discussion?
(No response)

Mr. Sprung: The question is on the proposed amendment to Chapter 9, Section 1 of the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-couple Pack Hunting Tests.

Those in favor please stand. Thank you.
Those opposed please stand. Thank you.
There are two-thirds affirmative. The amendment is adopted.

The final vote is on the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 1 of the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests. The amendment is recommended by the Beagle Advisory Committee. This amendment would grant licensed status to events held by Beagle Field Trial Federations. The proposal was read at the September 2009 meeting. It has been published twice in the AKC GAZETTE. It is on the cherry colored worksheet. The Board recommends its approval. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption.

Is there any discussion?

Mr. Sprung: The question is on the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 1 of the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack, Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests.

Those in favor, please stand. Thank you.
Those opposed please stand. Thank you.
There are two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment is adopted.

The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 6 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility.
Mr. Crowley: This amendment is to Chapter 11, Sections 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*. This amendment would eliminate the use of telegrams to change or cancel entries as telegrams are obsolete. The amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and is approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2010 meeting.

Mr. Sprung: Who says we are not catching up? Is there any discussion on the proposed amendment?

Mr. McCullagh: It basically takes it down to writing. Is electronic mail of any sort envisioned as being acceptable?

Mr. Sprung: Yes.

Mr. Sprung: The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 10, Section 1 to 6 of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Duties and Responsibilities of Animals*, and Chapter 15, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Protests Against Dogs*.

Mr. Crowley: This amendment is to Chapter 10, Sections 1 through 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Duties and Responsibilities of Show Veterinarians*, and Chapter 15, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Protests Against Dogs*. Chapter 10, Sections 1 through 6 of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Duties and Responsibilities of Show Veterinarians*, and Chapter 15, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Protests Against Dogs*, would update the requirements for show veterinarians to better accommodate on-call veterinarians and to require clubs to inform them of their duties.

Chapter 15, Section 1 of *the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Protests against Dogs*, is intended to include the event committee in the process of removing dogs from the show to eliminate the requirement for a form and to assign the physical responsibility for veterinary expenses. This memo is brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee 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 March 2010 meeting.

Mr. Sprung: Are there any questions on this proposed amendment?

Mr. Sprung: The Chair now calls on John Lyons, Chief Operating Officer, to announce the fourth quarter AKC Community Achievement Awards.

Mr. Lyons: Thank you, Dennis.

The fourth quarter Community Achievement Awards solely honor AKC clubs and federations holding exceptional AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day events. Each of the honorees will receive an AKC certificate of recognition and the AKC will donate $1,000 to each club or federation.

Details about the honorees and events will be published in the *AKC GAZETTE* and featured on the AKC website. The special fourth quarter RDO day honorees are: The
Lake Cumberland Kennel Club, the Rogue Valley Kennel Club, and the Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association.
And we have honorable mentions: the Huntsville Obedience Training Club, the Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club, the Obedience Training Club of Chugiak.
Please join me in congratulating the honorees.
(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, John.
For your information, the annual meeting will be held on March 9, 2010 at the Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel. The March meeting will be the annual election of directors for the Class of 2014. We will be e-mailing and placing hotel information on the Delegates Portal after January 1st, 2010 when our block of rooms becomes available.
Once again, our photographer is outside waiting to take your photographs, should you wish to do that after adjournment. Delegates are reminded to leave their badges at the registration desk. Please don’t forget to pick up your medallion, your show catalog, your AKC book and also the show program.
On behalf of the Board, and the staff, we would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Is there any further business?

The Chair recognized Judith Daniels, Delegate for the Mt. Baker Kennel Club and Chair of the Delegate Bylaws Committee, who spoke as follows:
I would like to advise the Delegate body that the Bylaws Committee yesterday voted to submit to the Board of Directors for their consideration an amendment to the Charter and Bylaws of the AKC which would delete the third paragraph and Article VII, Section 1, that stipulates term limits for our Board members. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.
(Applause)

The Chair recognized Sherry Wallis, Delegate for the Akita Club of America, who spoke as follows:
I’d like to remind everyone that January 5th is the deadline for submission of articles to Perspectives. And if anybody has anything they would like to write about and would like to send me, I’m the coordinating editor for that issue, Sherry Wallis, Akita Club of America. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: We appreciate the notice.

The Chair recognized Barbara Wicklund, Delegate for the Basset Hound Club of America, who spoke as follows:
I would like to request that in the future when new breeds are being admitted to the Miscellaneous class and to regular classes, that consideration be given to requiring the Parent Clubs to at least have a rescue content.

Ms. Clouss, Delegate for the Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
I will be the first to say that when the mixed-breed program was being proposed, I was not in favor but it is a program and I think we need to use it now and use it in a positive manner. At the All-Breed Club meeting, we had presentation about involving the Four H kids in this program and in our sport. A lot of the talk was about having them to come to
the club meetings or having them do cleanup or stewarding, that kind of thing. In my opinion we would need to give them a better goal than just being our workers. I think these kids are the youth, the sport, the people we need to come forward to be in our sport. So I would like to suggest that the mixed-breed program, since it is in fact only at stand-alone events, to allow classes for mixed breeds at our matches. I'd like to see mixed-breeds classes allowed in junior showmanship. These kids, a lot of them are rural, farm kids. They have maybe a mixed-breed dog they are learning to show, learning to have fun but they don't have a purebred or maybe they don't have a purebred yet. I would like to see us give them a chance to get involved and to have them come forward. We need to give them a better path to join us.

(Applause)

The Chair recognized Carol Williamson, Delegate for the Houston Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Speaking on behalf of the Legislative Caucus, I would like to make an announcement and to thank the Coordinating Committee and the AKC for their support in allowing me to make this announcement.

Bill Bruce is the director of Animal and Bylaw Services in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Our group proposed to the Coordinating Committee yesterday that we be allowed to bring them in to do a forum for the Delegates and that, as I said, with the Coordinating Committee’s support and with AKC’s generous support, that has been scheduled for September of next year. So we plan now to attend. He’s an excellent speaker and I think it will be a benefit to all of us.

The Chair recognized Nancy Perrell, Delegate for the Scottsdale Dog Fancier’s Association, who spoke as follows:

This is a quick story relating to somebody who had never been to a dog show that I met at the Long Beach Airport when I arrived. She had attended, on Saturday, and went to every booth at Meet the Breeds and was extremely impressed and was all upset because Terriers were her particular interest and she couldn’t stay for Sunday. So next year she’s coming for both days.

The Chair recognized Carol Clark, Delegate for the Border Collie Society of America, who spoke as follows:

I don't know how many people got to meet all of the Ace Award winners and I don't know if you know the story of Sage, the Border Collie that was recognized for Search and Rescue. This dog worked at Katrina, Rita, 9-11, and spent six months in Iraq finding bodies. Because AKC and the Canine Health Foundation decided to support and do health testing on all the dogs after 9-11, this dog, I don't know exactly how long ago it was, came up with a tumor in the lung and a tumor between the heart and the lung. Three weeks ago Sage had surgery and is totally, they think, free now of the cancer. And some members of the Border Collie Society that have a dog related to her donated hotel rooms for her to stay in while she was at Colorado State University having surgery. Her owner, Diane Whetsel, is extremely thankful to AKC.

And this is story, I think, could be used in a commercial, because everyone wants to recognize the veterans and the dogs that support them and this is a happy story for AKC that we should share.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.
Mr. Gladstone: I know you've all heard more than enough from me today so I will keep it real short. As chairman of CAR, I'd like to point out that we are working hard to bring out new marketing programs and sales programs for both our microchips and enrollments. And as club members, if you are approached by representatives from CAR to try and set up meetings and programs at your club meetings, I ask you to please help and cooperate. I believe and I know that most of you believe that AKC CAR is a great asset for AKC and we really need to make it a success. I ask you to please cooperate when you hear from somebody from CAR, that they want to come to your club and talk and have a program to discuss. Please welcome them. Thanks.
(Applause)

The Chair recognized Blackie Nygood, Delegate for the Mispillion Kennel Club who spoke as follows:
I'm speaking for myself alone as a fairly elderly person. In any case, I love the small, convenient Delegate Directory. Knowing my computer, it will break down halfway through unloading the new Delegate Directory off the portal. How many Delegates like myself would be willing to pay a small amount of money for what that costs for us to be able to buy the Delegate Directory? We now pay $5 for the Judge's Directory. You get one free copy for your show chairman. I would be glad to pay to get a Delegate directory. Would any of you be glad to pay for a Delegate directory?
(Show of hands).

Ms. Nygood: Would you think about it?

Mr. Sprung: Would you let me forget it?

Ms. Nygood: No.

The Chair recognized Robert Nazak, Delegate for the Old Dominion Club of Northern Virginia, who spoke as follows:
I'd like to thank Dennis for acknowledging the fact that Bo Obama has joined us but we are also very proud that one of our members, Martha Stone, bred Bo. And if you remember, that was handled with a lot of dignity. It was actually well-accomplished, what could have been a very complicated issue, and Mrs. Stone did a beautiful job and I'm sad to report we've lost her. So keep her in your prayers.

Mr. Sprung. Very much appreciated.

The Chair recognized Margarette Wampold, Delegate for the South Windsor Kennel Club who spoke as follows:
I don't think the pictures we saw today of Meet the Breeds can give you the full impact of what it was like. It was one of the best events I've ever been to. It was so crowded that you couldn't walk down these aisles. It was well run, well organized. It was a great event. It was very much appreciated by all the people that came through and I say shame on you, the Parent Clubs that wouldn't participate.

Mr. Sprung: I want everybody to know next year the National Championship Show will be in Long Beach and we'll then be moving to Florida.

The Chair Recognized Rose Radel, Delegate for the Ramapo Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
Again, I would like to also say that the Meet the Breeds was spectacular. The Javits Center reached maximum capacity and we had to close the doors at one point. And I’m very proud to say that the Ramapo Kennel Club was one of the two all-breed clubs. And the other was Westminster that participated and we had a terrific time and a terrific booth.

(Applause)

The Chair recognized Vanessa Weber, Delegate for the English Toy Spaniel Club of America, who spoke as follows:
I think we should organize major events at the same time as the PETA and HUSU annual conferences.

Mr. Sprung: Hearing no additional business, we will go to lunch where we will honor our Lifetime Achievements Award winners. Thank you, very much.

(Meeting Adjourned at 11:58 a.m.)

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