

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Delegates Meeting
June 13, 2017

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

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dais: Chairman, Ron Menaker Vice Chairman, Dr. Tom Davies; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, who was attending her first meeting; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; and Todd DeSimone, the Court Reporter.

The Chair reported the passing of the following Delegates as follows:

Peggy Wampold died on April 15th. She was the Delegate of South Windsor Kennel Club since July of 2004. Blackie Nygood died on May 23rd. She was Delegate for Mispillion Kennel Club from 1994 until February of this year. These were two very special women whose dedication to AKC dogs and their clubs knew no boundaries.

We were notified Sunday night, New York time, of Steven D. Gladstone's untimely death. Steve was in Australia with his wife, Jan. He served as Delegate for the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America from December of 1980 until September 1982, then for the Reno Kennel Club from February 1999 through January 2010, and then Greater Naples Dog Club from January 2010 until July of 2014, at which time he became the Delegate for the Waterloo Kennel Club. Steve was elected to our Board of Directors in March of 2001, reelected in March of 2005, and served until 2009. He was once again elected to the Board in March of 2011 and reelected in 2015. We send our condolences to his wife, Jan Ritchie Gladstone, who is also a Delegate.

He also reported on the passing of William F. Stifel, AKC President and Delegate as follows: William F. Stifel died on May 24th. He served as Delegate for the San Francisco Dog Training Club from 1969 until 1971, after which he represented the Greater St. Louis Dog Training Club from 1977 until 1990, and later the Westminster Kennel Club from 2004 until 2009. Mr. Stifel joined the AKC in 1957 as a part-time typist. He became Supervisor of Show Plans and Show Records in 1964, and was subsequently elected Secretary. In 1976, he became Executive Vice President and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1977. The following year, Mr. Stifel was elected the 14th President of the American Kennel Club.

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

Norma Baley, to represent Park Shore Kennel Club
Kathleen H. Bencin, to represent Western Reserve Kennel Club
Gregory K. Benkiser, to represent Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia
Dr. Karen M. Ericson, to represent Whidbey Island Kennel Club
Toby Frisch, to represent Bichon Club of America
Thomas Graham, to represent Norfolk Terrier Club
Jean Highlands, to represent Great Dane Club of America
Betsy Horn Humer, to represent Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club
Bob Kimber, to represent Wolverine Beagle Club
Susan Kissik, to represent American Pointer Club
Lisa Pruka, to represent Border Collie Society of America
Roxana Rohrich, to represent Medina Kennel Club
R. James Rubin, to represent Irish Water Spaniel Club of America
Donna Smiley, to represent Harrier Club of America
James R. (Bob) Steel, Jr., to represent Italian Greyhound Club of America
Michael W. Zarlenga, to represent American Water Spaniel Club

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

Edmond Blausten, to represent Virginia Kennel Club
Toby Frisch, to represent Bichon Club of America
Priscilla Gabosch, to represent Bucks County Kennel Club
Donna Gilbert, to represent Greenwich Kennel Club
Gale Golden, to represent Framingham District Kennel Club
Thomas Graham, to represent Norfolk Terrier Club
Jean Highlands, to represent Great Dane Club of America
Mark Francis Jaeger, to represent American Brussels Griffon Association
Bob Kimber, to represent Wolverine Beagle Club
Susan Kissik, to represent American Pointer Club
Dr. Judith Lichtman, to represent Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of America
Susan Marucci, to represent Newtown Kennel Club
Lisa Pruca, to represent Border Collie Society of America
R. James Rubin, to represent Irish Water Spaniel Club of America

The minutes of the March 2017 Delegates meeting, which were published in the April 2017 Gazette, were adopted.

The American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club and the Hungarian Pumi Club of America were duly elected members of the American Kennel Club. .

The June 2017 Chairman's Report is attached to these minutes.

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

Last month, AKC held a legislative conference and celebration of National Purebred Dog Day at the Capitol in Washington D.C. This important undertaking is today's report. However, instead of my remarks, I invited Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations, to share with you the highlights, excitement and passion of these many successes.

Sheila brings the best perspective since she and her department were responsible for this accomplishment from planning through execution. Our appreciation and thanks to the Government Relations team as well as to Brandi Hunter and her Public Relations staff, both under the leadership of Gina DiNardo, for this progressive conference.

A special thank you goes to the numerous staff members in various departments throughout the American Kennel Club and the many volunteers who brought their dogs to the Capitol to educate and share the joys of purebred dog ownership. I am delighted to introduce AKC Vice President, Sheila Goffe.

Ms. Goffe: Good morning.

Thank you for that nice introduction; and thank you for inviting me to speak this morning.

At the June Forum last year, I spoke about the threat of anti-dog and anti-breeder legislation and I outlined some ideas for the AKC Government Relations Department to expand our outreach activities. This included increasing our legislative training and outreach for AKC club-based legislative liaisons and state federations, and expanding visibility among policymakers. I would like to thank the board for support that has enabled us to begin implementing some of these ideas.

Since the beginning of the year, one of the ways we've been working to achieve this is through regional legislative conferences and training sessions in targeted areas where we want to bolster legislative awareness and engagement.

Our first AKC regional legislative conference took place in January in Boxborough, MA.

Today, I've been asked to share some highlights from our most recent event – a combined legislative conference, lobby day and celebration of National Purebred Dog Day. This two-day event took place in the Washington DC area on April 30 - May 1.

I'd also like to invite you and your club members to keep watch for and participate in future similar events.

AKC legislative conferences are designed to educate, motivate, and train leaders in the dog world about threats to the future of dog ownership and our sport – and how we can proactively and successfully fight back against discriminatory legislation, and the misinformation that causes it. Our goal is to train future leaders and for participants to take what they learn back to their clubs and communities and to encourage them to share that message, too.

One of the key benefits of our conferences is personal interaction and the networking that takes place there. By sharing experiences, strategies and lessons learned from around the country, advocates can develop confidence, expertise, and a network to support and build on each other's successes.

They say "a picture is worth a thousand words", so we've prepared a video to give you a feel for the many components of this entire event: the conference, our lobby day, our special guests, and our Capitol Hill reception in honor of National Purebred Dog Day.

(Video shown)

Video Script follows:

The first day of our conference took place in Alexandria, VA. Seven speakers provided a full day of: legislative and advocacy training, strategy and motivational sessions, resource information and networking activities.

On May 1–National Purebred Dog Day – We moved to the U.S. Capitol. Morning presentations including: federal legislation, briefings from AKC's Lobbyists, an update from NAIA on dog trafficking and retail rescue, and information for club and federation building. In the afternoon, participants had an opportunity to join forces with AKC's lobbyists and meet with their member of Congress. AKC National Championship & Westminster BIS winner Rumor made goodwill tour of the Capitol. Rumor crisscrossed the Capitol, met hundreds of staff and policymakers, and more than 50 individual members of the U.S. House and Senate. The day culminated with a Capitol reception in honor of National Purebred Dog Day. The reception began with a welcome from AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung and the presentation of the AKC Canine Officer Award to the entire U.S. Capitol Police K9 Unit. U.S. Capitol Police Chief Verderosa, Assistant Chief Sund, and "Will" -- a Black Lab explosives detection dog were among the officials on hand to accept the award.

The reception highlighted two AKC Congressional Resolutions (S. Res 144 and H Con Res 46) that celebrate and honor the diversity, predictability and heritage of purebred dogs.

Throughout the evening, members of Congress and staff stopped by to meet dogs, share in the celebration and express their affinity for purebred dogs

Six members of Congress addressed the gathering. (Sen. Thom Tillis, Congressman David Rouzer, Congressman Ron DeSantis, Congressman Ralph Abraham, Congressman Kurt Schrader, Congressman Ted Yoho) Members of Congress, Senate, staff and guests had their photo taken with Rumor, held her Best in Show rosette, and imagined themselves as dog fanciers. Seven additional, special guests – representatives of each group –made the evening a complete success.

Imagine the Best in Show lineup at the AKC National Championship or Westminster -- and cross that with Meet the Breeds, and you get the picture. Canine diplomats met guests and posed for photographs. Their handlers shared the breed's history, purpose and function.

Attendees learned about the dedication of responsible breeders; the AKC programs that advance purebred dogs, canine health and wellbeing, and the human-canine bond.

Educational stations highlighted information about AKC programs and affiliates:

- *The AKC Humane Fund's grants to domestic violence shelters and related legislation supported by AKC (H.R. 909/S. 322)*
- *AKC CHF's \$5.9 million in 2017 grants for canine health research*
- *The economic benefits of dog shows*
- *Shelter statistics from NAIA*
- *Information about preserving rare AKC breeds*
- *AKC support for programs that provide specialized service dogs for military veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and related legislation (H.R. 2327/S.1014)*
- *The crucial national security value of American-bred detection and other working K9s.*

At the end of the evening, hundreds of congressional staff and members of the U.S. House and Senate had participated in the event. Many told us this was best event they'd been at this year.

In a town where few can agree on anything, this is a good sign for purebred dogs.

Ms. Goffe: So thank you and I hope you'll join us next year.

Chief Financial Officer, Joseph Baffuto, gave the Financial Report as follows:

Good morning Everyone! I am pleased to present to your attention this initial financial performance report of the American Kennel Club for the 2017 fiscal year. This report is through the end of May. Let us begin by assessing our year to date total revenues and expenses and compare them to last year's results.

So far through May 31st, we have recognized \$29.2 million worth of revenue, while recording \$25.7 million dollars in operating expenses. This has provided us with \$3.5 million dollars in operating income. This is practically equivalent to our \$3.45 million in operating income through May 2016. Our consistent year over year bottom line performance has us on solid footing and we have great expectations for the balance of the year moving forward.

Our comparable Total Revenues of \$29.2 million are up by \$2.1 million over the first five months of the year. To all management and staff, we give this a unified thumbs-up. Relating our year to date core registration volumes – we have registered 98,000 Litters which reflects a 6.6% increase and 243,000 Dogs which reflects a 6.5% increase, and 113,500 Pedigrees which reflects a 7.5% increase. Each of these increases in volume have combined to account for approximately \$600,000 in additional revenue!

Our Total Registration growth is due principally to the sustained and determined focus on improving services for AKC's core customer, The Breeder. As many of you are fully aware, our 2nd largest area of Revenue is that of Sports and Events. To summarize, our Recording and Event fees Revenue is at \$5.1 million dollars reflecting an increase of 2% with over 6,100 events. Our most current event entries data indicates a .25% increase to a grand total of just under 1,004,000 entries.

After Registrations and Events, we'll take further analysis of revenues which specifically leads us to our Growth Group and the successes that we have achieved throughout 2017. Digital advertising has increased by \$900,000 dollars or nearly 250%. Our digital ad strategies have included building a team to monetize web traffic. We have made significant technology optimization changes, along with fostering new profitable partnerships through a cohesive direct sales approach. Marketplace Revenue has improved by \$144,000 dollars or 45% over 2016 year to date levels. Success in this area can be credited to the launches of Puppyfinder and Marketplace 2.0 with a new user interface and improvements to search and navigation capabilities. Marketplace has become prominently simpler for AKC breeders to maintain their profiles and post new litter information and for ultimate consumers, it is rapidly becoming the go-to resource for finding AKC purebred dogs. Our Ecommerce function has risen by 35% or

\$143,000 dollars. These activities have included our New AKC Shop, which is our online store, launched in late 2016. The new shop features a broad selection of exceptionally high quality products focused to the needs of individual dog owners, along with an elevated user experience, expert content to guide product choices and highlight AKC's unique voice. After this comprehensive review of our Revenue, next we will assess our spending. Our YTD comparison of expenses shows that we have had an increase of \$1.9 million or 8.3% above last year. Let's analyze where these increases have emerged. Payroll and Benefits. These costs represent more than 50% of our total operating expenses. Through May 31, our Payroll and Benefits costs are up by \$1.6 million dollars or 14% as compared to this time during last fiscal year. There are details to examine behind the increase. Our Full Time Equivalent headcount has increased by 23.5 positions to a grand total of 310.5. The areas that have experienced the additional headcount increases over the period specifically are Registrations, Technology, and Marketing. Our Call Center within our Registration division has increased staff and service levels to meet the steadily expanding needs of our customers. Our development and project management teams have supplied the technology support necessary to build and further architect our systems. Our Marketing unit has fostered a team that is successfully building content, products and sales while maintaining our mission. Next, Consultant costs have increased in comparison by \$220,000 dollars. These costs have predominately been related to our real estate preparations and proceedings. Lastly, our year-to-date travel costs are marginally up over the period by \$113,000. Our expanded staff continues to diligently operate at enhancing and growing our revenue generating programs and functions, while successfully managing our controllable costs. In addition to our results from operations, I will briefly present the highlights of our investment performance through May 31, 2017. Our investment portfolio has earned a highly successful 5.2% return over the first five months of the year. These results have outperformed our benchmark of 5.06% by 14 basis points. Our return has recorded unrealized gains of \$5.7 million dollars to date. This is phenomenal news for the year. At this point last year, our portfolio had a 1.2% return and just over \$1 million in unrealized gains. However, we must always keep in mind that current market performance does not guarantee future successful results. We'll now turn our focus from the Income Statement of Activities over to The Balance Sheet of the AKC at May 31, 2017. Our balance sheet shows \$152.0 million in Total Assets with \$69.1 million in Total Liabilities, and therefore \$82.9 million in Net Assets. These significant favorable increases to our Total Assets, and in particular our Net Assets, fueled by the earlier mentioned successful investment performance, will allow us to maintain the strength for our core, as well as afford us new opportunities in the very near term future. Thank you very much for the courtesy to discuss our financials with you this morning. I am gladly available to discuss any of the information within the report. Have yourself a great summer season we will be back in September to discuss AKC's financial performance through the end of August! Get home safely.

There was a vote on Chapter 16, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championships*. This amendment would include the eligible single class entrants in the calculation of Grand Championship points. Currently, dogs that win Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, and Select from a non-regular class, such as veterans, can earn Grand Championship points but they are not included in the count for Grand Championship. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on Chapter 9, New Sections 2 and 7, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules - Description of Classes and Championship Requirements*. New Section 2 would allow licensed

clubs, associations and federations to hold Field Champion only stakes at their regular licensed field trial or as a Field Champion only standalone licensed field trial.

New Section 7 specifies the requirements for a dog to earn a Grand Field Champion title. This amendment was proposed by the Beagle Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized James Corbett, Delegate for the Tualatin Kennel Club and Chair of the Delegate Field Trial Committee, who spoke as follows:

When the Field Trial Committee reviews anything related to performance events, it is kind of a screening process. We looked at it, we evaluated it, we discussed it. The Beagle Advisory Committee voted 10 to 3 in favor of the amendment and our Delegate Committee supported it 9 to 1.

There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on Chapter 9, New Section 3 and Section 5, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules - Description of Classes and Championship Requirements*. New Section 3 would allow Beagle Federations to hold one licensed derby stake per calendar year. Section 5 would allow a Beagle to earn up to one-third of the requirements for a Field Champion title from the derby stakes. The amendment was proposed by the Beagle Advisory Committee and approved by your Board of Directors.

The following discussion followed:

Mr. Corbett: Once again, we reviewed this in depth and our support is very strong because, again, it came from and was supported by the Beagle Advisory Committee and our committee voted again 9 to 1, and we urge the support of this.

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

The Chair recognized Blaine Grove, Delegate for the New England Beagle Club, who spoke as follows.

Unlike the previous rule change, this rule does not look out for the future. It is a stopgap measure to lose entries and lose money coming into the AKC at this time. But to diminish the integrity of a Field Champion title by awarding points to a juvenile hound that if it is judged by the field trial standards, cannot compete with an open class dog. So by passing this, there are entities within the Beagle field trials that will allow them to count their entries. In looking out for the future, is it worth diminishing the integrity of the Field Champion title?

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Bob Kimber, Delegate for the Wolverine Beagle Club, who spoke as follows:

We are very pleased with this proposed amendment. It has the approval of all six brace federations. We believe the opportunity to earn some licensed trial points and one win at federation licensed trials will motivate Beaglers to breed more, raise and register more litters, to train and individually register more hounds, and to enter more hounds at the federations. This, in turn, will have a positive impact on the entries at the regular licensed trials. So we see this as a win-win for Beagling and the American Kennel Club.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Christopher Keenan, Delegate for the Empire Beagle Club, who spoke as follows:

We were established in 1911 and we run all types of Beagle field trials, including the formal pack. We have members that run formal pack, gundog and brace, and I am standing to support this proposition.

The Chair recognized Barbara Mann, Delegate for the Dayton Dog Training Club, who spoke as follows:

This is a point of order, I believe, Mr. President. I would appreciate it if you would give some of us a little bit more time to stand up when we want to vote. We are not real quick at it anymore.

There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on Chapter 14, Section 4, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers - Rules for Retriever Field Trials*. This amendment would give clubs the freedom to use a system of rotation if they so desire. The objective of rotation is to spread the benefit or burden of running early equitably among the competing dogs. The amendment was proposed by the Field Trial Advisory Committee and is approved by the AKC Board.

There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championships*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to Chapter 16, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championships*, would include the dog awarded Select Dog or Bitch in the calculation of Grand Championship points for the award. The proposal was brought forward by the AKC Board of Directors based on a Staff recommendation. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2017 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed to you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 8A, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to Chapter 11, Section 8A, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, would require permanent identification for a dog that is disqualified if it is ever to be considered for reinstatement. Reinstatement would be conducted by AKC staff. Judges would not participate in the process. The name, AKC number, and the contact information for the owner of the disqualified or reinstated dog would be conveyed to the show superintendent. The amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. The AKC Board of Directors unanimously disapproved the amendment. The Dog Show Rules Committee is requesting that this amendment go forward to the Delegates for a vote, as per the AKC Bylaws. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2017 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed to you.

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

The following discussion followed:

The Chair recognized Sue Goldberg, Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, who spoke as follows: I'm also the Chair of the Dog Show Rules Subcommittee on DQ for Reinstatement. This has to do with dogs that are DQ'd for attacking. The genesis of this was that, and this has been four years in the making, four years ago a friend of mine who was a judge participated in a reinstatement and was badly bitten. She called me up and she said you're on the Dog Show Rules Committee, do something, and that's how this began.

There have been many improvements that have been made from the Board, thank you for that, as a result of our undertaking and review of this issue, but it hasn't gone far enough. As Patty Proctor said, safety is our primary concern and that has been the overriding theme of the four years that we have worked on this issue. We say this is a family sport, we invite people, the spectators, to come with their children, and we don't want to put anyone at risk. And please understand that we are not saying that no dog should be reinstated. We understand that there are extenuating circumstances that would enable and allow a dog to apply for reinstatement. The Board has denied, as you heard, this request when it was sent to them. One of the reasons given was that these incidents don't happen frequently enough. Our position is one incident is too many.

There are two important issues here. The first is removing the reinstatement process from the dog show event. Bringing a dog back who has already bitten somebody puts other dogs, the spectators, the judges, the exhibitors, families, at potential risk of being bitten again. Some of you may know that a year ago at the Bucks County show a dog was brought back for reinstatement which was denied by the club, the dog was held at ringside, and a spectator was standing next to it and on the other side of this gentleman was his young child. He reached down to pet the dog. The dog bit him in the head. We don't need that kind of publicity. We don't need that kind of risk. We don't need any of that in our sport. We have the opportunity to protect everyone and we should be doing it. So we are saying that reinstatement should take place elsewhere, not at the venue, done by the AKC staff, and judges should be removed from the process. Having reinstatement at the show in addition to the safety issue puts the clubs and their officers and the venue at potential risk of being sued, and as we all know, even if you are ultimately held harmless, it costs money to defend a lawsuit. So that was our rationale for that. There is no advantage to any club to holding a reinstatement at its show, only potential for risk. The second part of this issue was the fact that we feel strongly that the dog must be identified in the ring at the time of the infraction because it is the only way to ensure that the dog that is presented for reinstatement is actually the dog that committed the attack. The paperwork has to be filled out in the ring. That is AKC's policy. So it does take time to summon a field rep, to fill out this paperwork at length. If the judge feels that this dog who has just attacked is a menace to the other dogs in the ring, those other dogs can be excused while this policy is completed. But we want that dog permanently identified either by microchip or a tattoo or some unalterable body feature, a particular coat pattern, a broken tooth, something. Six show photographers have agreed to take a photo of the dog in the ring, not stacked, but just a photo for identification purposes which then makes it part of the club's official record. So we feel that this process will help ensure the safety of everyone involved in our sport and we hope that you will go back to your clubs and come back with an approval in September. Thank you very much.

The Chair recognized Margaret Doster, Delegate for the Kennel Club of Buffalo, who spoke as follows:

My club has asked me to find out who is it that determines the reinstatement of such a dog?

Mr. Sprung: The Reinstatement Committee, which is usually three judges, and it is organized by the executive field representative and occurs a half hour before judging begins.

Ms. Doster: Okay, thank you.

Ms. Mann: I want to first of all say that I am very much in favor of this proposal. However, I would like to point out that those of us in obedience don't usually use a superintendent, we self-superintend. So the reference to the superintendent should also include the trial secretaries, because we are also governed by dog show rules, unless we have something that conflicts with them.

The Chair recognized James G. Phinizy, Delegate for the Scottish Deerhound Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I would ask the member from Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, is this specifically for a dog that is vicious and should not that wording be included in the language? I did not hear clearly that it said dogs for vicious behavior.

Ms. Goldberg: The entire proposal is geared towards dogs that have been disqualified for attacking, not menacing, that is an excusal, disqualified for attacking. Does that answer your question?

Mr. Phinizy: A further question then. The question is, is that specific in the language? Does it say for attacking?

Ms. Goldberg: That is in that section.

Mr. Phinizy: Okay. I did not read it, so I was just asking for clarification.

Ms. Goldberg: By the way, it also protects the AKC because in Chapter 11, Section 8A, and Chapter 11, Section 11, the AKC rules prohibit a dog who is not entered in the show from being on the grounds. So if that dog attacks, the AKC can be sued for violating its own rules.

Mr. Phinizy: Thank you. I wasn't getting into a question of lawsuits. It was more about just wanting clarification. Thank you.

The Chair recognize Sidney Marx, Delegate for the Colorado Springs Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

One further point of clarification - before any dog can apply for reinstatement, the judge who disqualifies the dog has to approve -- has to okay the fact that this dog is eligible to be reinstated. If the judge says no, it should not be reinstated, it would not go forward; is that correct?

Mr. Sprung: It would not go forward, that is correct.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 22A, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to Chapter 14, Section 22A, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds*, would allow for a National Gun Dog Championship for Gordon Setters, limited to walking handlers. The amendment was proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America and is approved by the AKC Board. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2017 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed.

The following discussion followed:

Ms. Doster: Is it true at this time that the Gordon Setters are working with handlers on horseback? And the question is why go to walking handlers?

Mr. Sprung: Doug, could you help us with that, please?

Doug Lundgren, Vice President of Sports and Events, spoke as follows:

Yes, the Gordon Setters now currently have a national championship which is a horseback trial. AKC has both horseback field trials and walking field trials. This is an expansion of the field trial sport to allow a national championship for walking handlers. But they still have the horseback championship, in addition to, yes.

The Chair recognized Nance Skoglund, Delegate for the Gordon Setter Club of America who spoke as follows:

We currently also hold a walking stake at our national championship, while the rest of it is on horseback, and that has been very well-received. We have brought some new people into the sport because of that. So we would like to expand that to a full walking national championship and we are convinced that that will get more people into the sport. For those of you who don't know much about field trials, it is very expensive to buy a horse, haul a horse, feed a horse, shoe a horse, and ride him at a field trial. So this will allow those folks who don't have thousands and thousands of dollars to sustain a horse to actually participate in field trials with their Gordon Setters. So we would really appreciate your support for this amendment. Thank you.

The Chair called on Sheila Goffe, vice president of Government Relations, to present an award and for two PAC resolutions to be presented by Jim Dok and a PAC update.

Ms. Goffe: The American Kennel Club is proud to announce that Ann Lettis, the Founder and president of Responsible Dog Owners Association of New York, is the first quarter 2017 winner of the Walter Bebout Memorial Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation. The "Bebout" award recognizes federations and owner/breeder organizations that have demonstrated leadership in educating legislators about responsible dog ownership issues and have worked to preserve the rights of responsible owners and breeders. Winners of the Bebout award receive a \$1,000 donation to help offset the costs associated with their legislative efforts.

Ann is a long-time owner/breeder exhibitor of Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and prior to that, Boxers. Ann first got involved in legislation in 1987 when Mayor Koch had the New York City Board of Health institute a ban breed specific ban on "pit bulls". AKC took the Board of Health to Court, but needed New York residents to network and be prepared to testify about purebred dogs. Ann stepped forward to help out, and never looked back.

Thirty years later, some of Ann and the Responsible Dog Owners Association of New York's accomplishments include: opposing dog limit laws and unwarranted breeder restrictions; working with counties and cities throughout New York, focusing on the New York City area to oppose breed-specific legislation and to create enforceable dangerous dog ordinances; monitoring legislation and networking with members to get out support or opposition whenever needed in legislation; working with AKC GR on all aspects of legislation in New York state, and especially the New York City area; developing personal, close relationships with key legislators in New York City and state and educating them about the fancy and responsible dog owners. Ann taught us all to never underestimate the power of bringing cookies to the staff of in your local legislator's offices!

Ann has given ceaselessly of her time and efforts to kennel clubs in New York and New Jersey to teach about legislation, community involvement, and creating educational programs for children and to promote responsible dog ownership, including AKC's responsible dog ownership videos.

We would like to ask Ann Lettis, president of the Responsible Dog Owners Association of New York, and Delegate from the Grand River Kennel Club (Ohio) to come up to receive this award.

Thank you, Ann!

(Applause)

Ms. Goffe: We have two further proclamations on behalf of the American Kennel Club PAC. The first is a resolution honoring Alan Kalter's service to the American Kennel Club as a founding member of the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee Board of Directors.

WHEREAS, Alan Kalter is a founding member of the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee (AKC PAC) Board of Directors, established on October 12th, 2007; and,
WHEREAS, Alan Kalter has provided exceptional assistance and service to the AKC PAC as a Board Member for 10 years; and,

WHEREAS, Alan Kalter has owned and bred Bullmastiffs for more than 30 years, and along with wife Chris Lezotte, was named American Kennel Club Breeder of the Year in 2016; and,

WHEREAS, Alan Kalter has served as the AKC Delegate for the American Bullmastiff Association since 2007, and was elected to the AKC Board of Directors on March 10, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, Alan Kalter was elected Chairman of the American Kennel Club Board of Directors in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Alan Kalter has been active in canine legislation for many years in a variety of roles with the Detroit Kennel Club, the American Bullmastiff Association, and the American Kennel Club; and,

WHEREAS Alan Kalter's leadership, knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to canine policy and public relations have been of great value to the AKC PAC Board; and

Now therefore,

Be it resolved that the Directors of the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee honor Alan Kalter's service and dedication to the American Kennel Club and its political action committee, and extend to him their grateful appreciation and best wishes for his future endeavors.

(Applause)

Ms. Goffe: Resolution honoring Carl C. Ashby, III and his service to the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee Board of Directors.

WHEREAS, Carl C. Ashby joined the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee (AKC PAC) in 2009, and served through March 2017; and,

WHEREAS Carl C. Ashby served as the Chairman of the Board of the AKC PAC from September two thousand and eleven through March two thousand and seventeen, during which time he greatly expanded the impact of the AKC PAC; and,

WHEREAS, Carl C. Ashby first joined the AKC Delegate body as the Delegate for the Forsyth Kennel Club in 1990, and was elected to the AKC Board of Directors on March 10th, 2009; and,

Whereas Carl C. Ashby has been active in canine legislation for many years as he was a founding member of the Carolina Terrier Association /and has been Delegate for the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.; and,

WHEREAS Carl C. Ashby's leadership, knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to legislation and public policy have been of great value to the AKC PAC Board;

Now therefore,

Be it resolved that the Directors of the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee honor Carl C. Ashby's service and dedication to the American Kennel Club and its political action committee, and extend to him their grateful appreciation and best wishes for his future endeavors.

(Applause)

James Dok, AKC Board and AKC PAC Board member spoke as follows:

It is a pleasure for me to be here and I want to congratulate Alan and Carl again for their contributions. PAC is a successful entity only because of you, our Delegates. It is our Political Action Committee. Last year we raised a little over \$54,000. 90 percent of the donations we made politically won their reelection. 90 percent, that's substantial. The problem is everybody in this room is unique. We all have one thing in common. We all get to a dog show, we walk into those dog shows and once we're within that show limit, five or ten people want to talk to any one of us. So we get sort of, my word, nibbled to death by many who want to talk with us because we are special, something special about being a Delegate. So the pejorative word for 2017 is engagement. We have midterm elections in 2018, another election in 2020, with opportunity for engagement all around us. How do we engage members to donate to the AKC PAC? We would like to have each one of you in this room today to commit to talking with three people. Talk to them meaningfully about the AKC PAC over our busiest dog show season in the next four months. Most of the contributions come into PAC October through December. So we will forgive October, November and December. Go to work. Thank you very much. Thank you for your support in 2016!

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

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

All-Breed Clubs Committee, three three-year terms and one one-year term.

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

Canine Health Committee, four three-year terms.

Companion Events Committee, three three-year terms.

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, three three-year terms and one one-year term.

Dog Show Rules Committee, three three-year terms.

Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee, four three-year terms.

Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Committee, four three-year terms, two two-year terms, and one one-year term.

Parent Clubs Committee, three three-year terms.

Perspectives Editorial Staff, six two-year terms and one one-year term.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that they would be e-mailed self-nomination forms by the end of June. This self-nomination form must be returned by July 14th to the Executive Secretary and questions on procedures should also be addressed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self-nominate for one committee except that a member of the Perspectives Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee. In August the Delegates will be e-mailed nominations for each committee and their qualification statements.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the September 2017 Delegates meeting will be held at a different hotel. The hotel for the September 12th meeting will be at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel. AKC will be e-mailing and placing hotel information on the Delegate Portal after our

block of rooms becomes available. In addition, the December Delegates meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida. The meeting will again be at the Rosen Centre Hotel on Friday, December the 15th. As soon as that block of rooms becomes available, it will be put on the Delegates Portal.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

James Smith, Washington State Obedience Training Club, expressed concerns about our judges' education and the judging approval process.

Felice Jarrold, Delegate for the Old Pueblo Dog Training Club, thanked Doug Ljungren and staff for adding scent work to AKC events, which she has been lobbying for the AKC to do for years. She also urged Delegates to get involved in scent work if it is offered in their area.

Pamela Stacy Rosman, Delegate for the Canaan Dog Club of America, said that several of her fellow club members asked her to express their appreciation for the improvements made to both the online litter registration process and AKC Marketplace.

Barbara Mann, Delegate for the Dayton Dog Training Club, requested that when there are proposed changes to the Rally and Obedience regulations, that Delegates and Companion Events Committee be advised so that they can offer their input before the Board votes on these amendments.

Sherry Wallis, Delegate for the Akita Club of America and editor of *Perspectives*, requested Delegates to submit articles for *Perspectives* to the next issue coordinator, Don James by July 15th.

Vivian Moran, Delegate for the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, spoke as follows: We are all feeling the loss of Steve Gladstone in our own way. The Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America and Cardigan fanciers around the world have lost one of our own. Steve championed all dogs but he loved and promoted Cardigans. He helped put Cardigans on the dog show map. Without Steve's support, we might still be the short dog at the end of the line. Personally, I have lost a mentor and a friend. Without Steve's prodding, I would not have my judge's license, and if it were not for Steve I would not be standing here in front of you. The Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America extends condolences to Jan, who has become one of us also, and to Steve's family and to his many friends in and out of the fancy. God speed, Steve, you will be sorely missed.

Sylvia Thomas, Delegate for the Kennel Club of Riverside, and assistant editor of *Perspectives*, thanked the Executive Secretary for emailing the Delegates the latest issue of *Perspectives* and informing them that it was on Delegate Portal. She also thanked her for attaching the PDF of the issue to the email. She urged all Delegates who do not already read *Perspectives* to do so.

Gail LaBerge, Delegate for Atlanta Obedience Club and Secretary of the Companion Events Committee, wanted to clarify that while she respects her opinion, Ms. Mann was not speaking for the entire committee.

Ann Wallin, Delegate for the Atlanta Kennel Club and Chair of the All-Breed Club Committee, informed the Delegates that John Ronald gave a wonderful presentation at their Committee meeting about a survey the Committee conducted and thanked the clubs that responded. She

informed the Delegates that the survey results will be posted on the All-Breed Clubs Resource site which is on the AKC website and can be found by hovering over Clubs, then All-Breed Clubs, then a drop down menu to the Resource site. In September the Committee will be completing a Best Practices survey.

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America and editor for the upcoming issue of *Perspectives*, asked Delegates to submit ideas for an article on ways to welcome rookies at National Specialties and for ways to make it interesting and fun for new attendees. He also spoke about his memories of Steve Gladstone at a 2006 Leonberger National Specialty as follows:

I just have to say in 2006 when the Leonberger Club of America was still in the process of trying to become the AKC's parent club, there was another club in competition with us at the time, and we asked Steve Gladstone to come to our national specialty in Coeur d'Alene, and when Steve got done with the specialty, I will never forget, he said to me that is one of the best national specialties I have ever attended and he said if anyone says that the Leonberger Club of America should not be the parent club for the LCA's, they are going to have to talk to me, and that would not be a good thing. He was a friend and I will never forget what he said, I will never forget what he did for us in helping us become the parent club for the AKC and Steve was the proud owner of a Leonberger. Thanks.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.)

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

Chairman's Report – June 2017

Whether our passion lies in the show ring, the field, the whelping box, or any combination thereof, our goal to produce, raise and own *healthy* purebred dogs is one we all share.

With that objective in mind, I would like to tell you about the incredible advancements that we are accomplishing in the realm of canine health today. Of course our commitment to health is not new. But what's special about this work is how we are achieving it through a new team approach that strengthens the bond between the American Kennel Club and the AKC Canine Health Foundation more than ever before.

Many of you have heard about the tick-borne disease initiative that is entering its second year in 2017. This set of five major grants aims to improve diagnostics and advance therapeutics to treat and prevent diseases such as Lyme, ehrlichiosis, and others. This work is so meaningful because these illnesses often go undiagnosed and can be very challenging to manage when they take hold. And they affect so many dogs -- as well as people.

The threat of tick-borne diseases is escalating in many regions of the US, especially right here in the Northeast. In 2016, AKC agreed to match up to \$250,000 in contributions to CHF for this program. In just six months, the CHF team met its goal in an unprecedented fundraising effort, thanks in large part to the many AKC parent clubs that participated so generously. A second year of matched funding from AKC in 2017 is

fueling the progress of these cutting-edge studies, which now count a year's worth of data to mine in the search for treatments and cures.

Another important achievement comes in the study of canine epilepsy, the most prevalent neurological disorder in dogs. In 2017, AKC initiated another match opportunity, again offering up to \$250,000 in contribution matching. A notable result of this AKC-and-CHF-funded work was a breakthrough discovery of a new gene for canine epilepsy, which paves the way for a new genetic test for the disease. The discovery, which also has important implications for the treatment of epilepsy in children, was published this year in the journal of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.

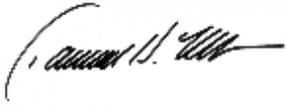
Our mission to advance purebred and purpose-bred dogs has kept us focused on supporting the veterinary community in the field of theriogenology. I am pleased to announce that AKC and CHF have injected three more years of funding into our "therio" residencies at major US veterinary institutions beginning in 2018. The four currently active residencies will be joined by two more in each of 2018 and 2019, and extends our support through 2020. The study of canine reproductive medicine has no greater champion than the American Kennel Club, and all dog fanciers should consider themselves stakeholders in this work. I am delighted that this year the AKC Canine Health Foundation now assumes the role of managing and stewarding our investment in this important scientific pursuit. Our "therio" project is a shining example of how AKC and our affiliates are working together to create progress for purebred dogs.

The bridges we are building with the veterinary community are stronger than ever thanks to a united front we have created through collaboration between AKC departments (including Veterinary Outreach, Government Relations, Public Relations and Marketing), the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and our Delegates Health Committee. So much of this work has been effective in raising our profile with the influential American Veterinary Medical Association. In fact, our management and staff are now holding quarterly meetings with the AVMA to discuss health-related topics of mutual concern. Additionally, the AKC's Chief Veterinary Officer has been invited to speak at the AVMA convention this summer, where he will represent our interests and advance the message of purebred dogs. When we speak out together for those who cannot speak, our voice is that much more powerful.

Those of us in the breeder/exhibitor community certainly have a vested interest in canine health, but we are not alone. Today's pet owners are more educated, more focused and more demanding when it comes to their dogs. The quest for the "healthy, happy puppy" must start and end with AKC. That is why we continue to uphold and enhance breeder programs like AKC Breeder of Merit and Bred with H.E.A.R.T, special designations that require parent-club-advised health tests on all breeding stock and resulting litters. Now, we are taking these programs further through collaboration with CHF and OFA, when we will look to new standardizations for genetic testing. The growth in registrations that we celebrated last year and carefully nurture today is surely due in part to the emphasis we are placing on meeting the public's demand for dogs that have been responsibly bred for sound temperament and optimal health.

As a famous friend once wrote, and I paraphrase, "dogs make our lives whole." I know you all agree – we owe it to them to make *their* lives whole, too. Thanks to the unique and robust partnership between the American Kennel Club, the AKC Canine Health

Foundation, our dedicated dog clubs and fanciers – together we are making life better for ALL dogs, everywhere.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald H. Menaker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and 'M'.

Ronald H. Menaker