DELEGATES’ ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DELEGATES
OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
JUNE 11, 2013

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 230

Affenpinscher Club of America—Letisha Wubbel
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Constance Butherus
Airedale Terrier Club of America—Aletta L. Moore
Akita Club of America—Sherry E. Wallis
Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—Patricia A. Peel
American Black & Tan Coonhound Club, Inc.—Robert Urban
American Bloodhound Club—Mrs. Ruth A. Naun
American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—Alan Kalter
American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.—Carol Williams
American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—Marilyn E. Currey
American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—Don Hanson
American Pointer Club, Inc.—Mrs. Karen R. Spey
American Rottweiler Club—Mr. Peter G. Pusz
American Sealyham Terrier Club—Kenneth W. Mader
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—Marjorie Tuft
American Tibetan Mastiff Association—Martha Feltenstein
Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Ms. Patricia A. Sample
Antelope Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—William Daniels
Asheville Kennel Club, Inc.—Jaimie Malvey
Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—Ann Wallin
Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—Gail A. LaBerge
Austin Kennel Club, Inc.—Bette D. Williams
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—William I. Christensen
Baltimore County Kennel Club—Lucy C. Campbell-Gracie
Basenji Club of America, Inc.—Katie Campbell
Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—Sanda J. Launey
Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—Kathy Coxwell
Bedlington Terrier Club of America—Diane Pearson
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—Sara Karl
Black Russian Terrier Club of America—Susan Sholar
Border Collie Society of America—Ms. Carol Clark
Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Ruth A. Naun
Briard Club of America, Inc.—Michael Gibson
Bull Terrier Club of America—Rebecca Poole
Bulldog Club of America—Robert L. Newcomb
Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.
California Collie Clan, Inc.—Robette G. Johns
Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club—Mr. Wayne F. Harmon
Canaan Dog Club of America—Pamela S. Rosman
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—Vivian A. Moran
Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—Jaimie Ashby
Catoctin Kennel Club—Whitney Coombs
Catonsville Kennel Club—Beverly A. Drake
Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc.—Julian Prager
Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.—Sally Allen
Channel City Kennel Club, Inc.—Claire K. Steidel
Chattanooga Kennel Club—David Gilstrap
Clow Chow Club, Inc.—Frank Holloway
Clarksville Kennel Club—Robert A. Schroll
Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—Dr. Stephen Lawrence
Clearwater Kennel Club—Daniel T. Stolz
Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—Marjorie Underwood
Cleveland All-Breed Training Club, Inc.—Mrs. Maureen R. Setter
Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—Judy Hiller
Colorado Springs Kennel Club—Sidney L. Marx
Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara B. Shives
Columbia Missouri Kennel Club—Robert E. Ekle
Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—Norra J. Ryan
Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—Michael Houchard
Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—Larry Sorenson
Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Charles Garvin
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Karen Dorn
Dayton Dog Training Club, Inc.—Barbara L. Mann
Del Monte Kennel Club, Inc.—Merlyn A. Green, D.C.
Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc.—Andrew G. Mills
Devon Dog Show Association, Inc.—Meg Weitz
Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—Mrs. Patti L. Strand
Dog Owners Training Club of Maryland—Kathyann Sarvias
Durham Kennel Club Inc.—Linda C. Wozniak
Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—Jeffrey Drogan
Elm City Kennel Club—Dr. Gregory J. Paveza
Elmira Kennel Club, Inc.—Honore R. Hastings, III
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—Sharon K. Collins
English Setter Association of America, Inc.—Mr. John P. Nielsen
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—Susanne Burgess
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois—David H. Hopkins
Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Terrie Breen
Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—Cathleen Rubens
Field Spaniel Society of America—Katherine Sullivan
Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Margaret B. Pough
Finnish Spitz Club of America—Mrs. Cindy Stansell
Forysth Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Almira B. Dallas
Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—Charles Arnold
delegates’ annual meeting

Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—
Virginia Denninger
German Pinscher Club of America—
Deidre E. Gannon
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—Mr. Kenneth A. Marden
German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Patricia W. Laurans
Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—Kimberly Demchak
Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Bonnie Lapham
Golden Gate Kennel Club—Dr. William R. Newman
Golden Retriever Club of America—
Ellen Hardin
Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—
Nance O. Skoglund
Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—
Suzanne Sliney
Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.—
Dr. Robert M. Brown
Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc.—Ms. Karen J. Burgess
Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—
Barbara Shaw
Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club—
Patricia B. Staub
Greater Lowell Kennel Club, Inc.—
Virginia M. O’Connell
Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club, Inc.—Margaret DiCorleto
Greater Naples Dog Club—Steven D. Gladstone
Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—Linda L. LaFrance
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—Mary Jo Rasmussen
Greenville Kennel Club—Linda A. Knorr
Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—Cindy Miller
Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—Mr. Robert D. Black
Havanese Club of America—Jane F. Ruthford
Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—
Patricia M. Cruz
Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy Fisk
Hoosier Kennel Club, Inc.—Karl H. Kreck
Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—Carol A. Williamson
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—
Dick Blair
Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—Gwen McCullagh
Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—Luane V. Williams
Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Rita J. Biddle
Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—
Karolyne McAttee
Irish Terrier Club of America—Douglas L. Rapport
Jaxon Kennel Club, Inc.—Sally McNamara
K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County, NJ, Inc.—Dave Morgan
Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—Mr. John D. Sawicki
Kennebunk Kennel Club—James F. Gibson
Komondor Club of America, Inc.—
Michael Harman
Kuvasz Club of America—Constance D. Townsend
Land O’ Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Jan Croft
Langley Kennel Club—Ms. Dianne E. Franck
Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—
Robert N. LaBerge
Leonberger Club of America—Don James
Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.—
Sue Goldberg
Lexington Kennel Club Inc—Scott E. Holmes
Los Encinos Kennel Club, Inc.—David M. Powers
Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—Lynn Garvin
Maryland Kennel Club—Gary Sarvitas
Mensona Kennel Club, Inc.—John S. Fitzpatrick, D.V.M.
Minneapolis Kennel Club, Inc.—Ralph Hogancamp
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—
Gretchen Bernardi
Monmouth County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Harold E. Perry
Mount Vernon Dog Training Club—Mrs. Ruth W. Crumb
Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Rebecca S. Stanieich
Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Judith V. Daniels
Nashville Kennel Club—James Efron
National Beagle Club—Eddie Dziuk
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—
Mrs. Catherine B. Nelson
National Shiba Club of America—
Maggie Strouse
Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club—Viola Burgos
Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—
Mrs. Mary W. Price
Newman Kennel Club—Willie Crawford
Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Diane F. Taylor
North Shore Kennel Club—Richard F. Coletti
Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—
Stephen Skolnik
Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—Ms. Patricia C. Scully
Obedience Training Club of Rhode Island—James M. Ashton
Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—Harvey A. Mueller
Onondaga Kennel Association, Inc.—
Daniel R. Cunningham
Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—Burton J. Yamada
Otterhound Club of America—Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.
Pekingese Club of America—Elizabeth Tilley-Poole
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Anne Bowes
Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—Dennis J. Gallant
Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—Robert W. Gilmour
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America—Anne Gallant, Ph.D.
Pharaoh Hound Club of America—
Dominic P. Caro
Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—
Larry Wilson
Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—Joachim N. Blutreich
Plainfield Kennel Club—John McCullagh
Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Robert A. Amen
Portland Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Joan Savage
Progressive Dog Club—William H. Blair
Rampko Kennel Club—Jeffrey D. Ball
Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—Jan M. Ritchie
Rubber City Kennel Club—Cathy Gaidos
Sahuarro State Kennel Club—Rita L. Mather
Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—Bob Busby
The Delegates Forum is an informal meeting of Delegates that provides an opportunity for open discussion and the expression of ideas. No official business is transacted, a quorum is not required and no attendance record is kept.

Estate Planning and Pets

Attorney Peter Canalia gave a presen-

**CONFLICTS INVOLVING PET OWNERSHIP**

Attorney Debra Vey Voda-Hamilton gave a presentation on Contracts, Conflicts, and Collegiality related to pet ownership emphasizing the importance of clearly stipulating an agreed to method of mediation in any contract to avoid future litigation.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE JUNE 11, 2013 DELEGATES FORUM**

The Delegates Forum is an informal meeting of Delegates that provides an opportunity for open discussion and the expression of ideas. No official business is transacted, a quorum is not required and no attendance record is kept.
Dr. William R. Newman, to represent Golden Gate Kennel Club
Elizabeth Tilley-Poole, to represent Pekingese Club of America
Jane Wilkinson, to represent the Holyoke Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval, were introduced from the floor:
Sharon Collins, to represent English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
Jeffrey Drogin, to represent Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club
Robert Edward Ekle, to represent Columbia Missouri Kennel Club
Judy Hart, to represent Tennessee Valley Kennel Club
Karl Kreck, to represent Hoosier Kennel Club
Elizabeth Tilley-Poole, to represent Pekingese Club of America

The Chair thanked Mary Price, Delegate from the Newfoundland Club of America, who was attending her last meeting after 29 years of service. (Standing ovation)

The minutes of the March 2013 Delegates meeting were published in the April 2013 online AKC Gazette and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate's Portal on AKC's web site. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as published.

AKC Board Chairman, Alan Kalter, gave his report as follows:
Thank you, Dennis, and good morning fellow Delegates. Given that I spent nearly 45 years in the advertising agency business, it shouldn't come as a surprise that one of my favorite TV programs is "Mad Men" – the quintessential show about the advertising business in the 1960s, a time I remember well. One episode involves the proposed demolition of Penn Station and the construction of Madison Square Garden, which at the time was a hotly contested action.

Don Draper, the creative director of the agency, gives a pep talk to the hesitant client from Madison Square Garden, who was battling protesters against the plans to tear down Penn Station and build the Madison Square Garden we all know. Draper's advice was simple, but powerful - "If you don't like what they're saying, change the conversation."

That is certainly timely advice for the American Kennel Club. Today, I will share important steps we have taken to create that new conversation and, in turn, a new understanding of who we are, what we do, the dedication of responsible breeders, and the unique aspects of purebred dogs. In March, I reported we were committed to strengthening our public outreach, starting with creating an engaging and effective social media platform.

Christopher Walker joined us in March to spearhead that effort. His performance has been more like a battering-ram moving us forward with lightning speed. At that time, we had about 100,000 likes on Facebook and about 4,000 engaged participants - and engaged participants is the true measure of the health of a brand. Now, just 90 days later, we have almost 370,000 likes and 80,000 engaged people. While HSUS has many more likes, they only have 28,000 engaged participants. What does all that mean? Those that are with us are really with us. Supporting the AKC, talking about us, and passing along items from our Facebook page. In addition, we have a blog which the AKC team created in a couple of hours on Good Friday and the blog has currently received over 130,000 visitors. The last piece of that puzzle is the AKC website. Chris' team is working to make it significantly more user-friendly and interesting, particularly for the general dog-loving public. As they say, "watch this space" for change you will like.

Concurrent with our expansion of AKC's social media presence and outreach, we began an extensive review of public relations/public affairs agencies. The goal of that search was to determine a partner possessing the resources, expertise, and passion to create a new, exciting and engaging dialogue for the AKC. The team included me, Bob Amen, Dennis Sprung, Daryl Hendricks, Lisa Peterson, and was led by Chris Walker. We are very fortunate to have had Bob Amen's guidance throughout the process. His experience, knowledge, and insightful observations were of invaluable help.

The 90-day review started with a field of 19 and included in-person visits, conference calls, interim presentations, and final presentations. The participants covered both large and mid-size companies with a common thread being their strong desire to work with us. Throughout the process one company stood out at every step and we are pleased to announce that we have unanimously agreed - and have retained Edelman as our new public relations partner, effective immediately.

Edelman is the world’s largest public relations firm, with 4800 communication experts in 67 offices worldwide. Edelman combines the power of their size with the nimbleness and innovation we require.
They pioneered the first media tour; they were the first to apply public relations to building consumer brands; they conceived the first corporate citizenship program, and they were the first PR firm to establish a presence on the Web. Each achievement is directly linked to their entrepreneurial culture. Today they represent an impressive roster of global clients, including AstraZeneca, eBay, GE, HP, Microsoft, Shell, Starbucks, and Unilever.

They demonstrated a distinct understanding of our challenges and opportunities; unique capabilities in grassroots communication and mobilization; deep expertise in digital public affairs; effective legislator communication, and strong belief in the mission and work of the AKC. The team we will be working with consists of experts in a variety of disciplines, each with a purebred dog at home-one whose mother is a Breeder of Merit -and the leader of the team was formerly the spokesman for the NRA. The team works from the Edelman New York and Washington, DC offices.

Edelman will be assuming all the duties formerly performed by Rubenstein in addition to new responsibilities for public engagement to communicate our Good Works, promote purebred dogs, de-stigmatize responsible breeders, help achieve fair legislation, and promote AKC thought leadership.
In addition, Edelman has the experience and the expertise to anticipate, monitor, and respond to news attacks from the opposition or other threats to AKC's reputation 24/7. The key here is “anticipate”—something we will become expert at in short order. We have
some other plans, but I believe HSUS and ASPCA are some of the most avid readers of our reports, including this one. So, rather than reading about our plans, they can enjoy experiencing them instead.

One final point. I always admired the writings of Harvard philosopher William James on pragmatism and truth. I was particularly inspired by one thought he had - “Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.” That is good advice for all of us to take to heart. I know you and your clubs are doing interesting and exciting things in support of our Good Works and purebred dogs. We need to know about those efforts and make them part of our new conversation with the public and our legislators. Please, send that information to Stephanie Smith at SXS2@akc.org and be a part of shaping the destiny of the AKC and purebred dogs.

Thank you.

The President gave his report as follows: We have certainly had our share of challenges recently, more than the usual attacks on our integrity and the rights of breeders and owners. Our social media response was successful and reinforced a grassroots strength from within our constituency while engaging many dog lovers, setting the tone that we will not accept business as usual, all thanks to Chris Walker who is changing AKC culture for the better. While it is fair play to have disagreement amongst ourselves, we must emphasize the absolute duty to keep any difference of opinion in house as opposed to a public broadcast which falsely implies a divided community. To strengthen our positions we have taken action: (1) Interviewing numerous public relations firms to represent us for a larger and more comprehensive campaign telling our compelling story to the public. Staff thanks Alan Kalter and Bob Amen for lending their expertise. (2) Implemented a strategic product development process for our business with enhanced accountability for concept evaluation, planning, testing, and metrics for success. (3) Invested in the addition of 7 members to our social media and brand marketing team. (4) Increased registration options. (5) Planned a Breeder to Breeder conference (more later from Gina.)

The following actions are underway: (1) Updating the website’s look, content, and navigation; (2) Enhancing services to teach the public about a more user-friendly way to purchase puppies and help our breeders; (3) Refining criteria in response to requests by the media for interviews and crystallizing our story. We will define ourselves rather than allowing others to do so; (4) Continuation of significant growth of Facebook fans by 251 percent as well as Twitter and Pinterest; (5) Revamping public outreach and educational tools.

Actions in the pipeline: (1) improving our style of communication when working with legislators so that good reasoning and positive messaging is more easily understood; (2) Targeting new audiences by demographic and psychographic; (3) Advances in communications to children, tweens and adults on topics relevant to their lifestyle; (4) Launching social media initiatives through Google Plus, Instagram, YouTube and Vine; (5) Testing of a membership program for dog enthusiasts.

In summary, the best years of our sport are ahead of us. Broad outreach and appeal to all dog owners is essential so that we foster this compelling relationship, increase our base of these natural allies and expand our services and product opportunities. This latter step will define ourselves rather than allowing others to do so.

Watch out, here we come. The 2013 year to date results for May are up very well. Revenues are 25.2 million versus 23.2 million, up 1.6 million. Expenses notably are also down which is also very good and I’ll get into some details as to what’s happening beyond this summary.

Operating income as a result, through May is up 3.5 million.

The Investment Portfolio, because of Charlie Garvin and I working on it (SMILE), is up 5.5 million.

• The improvement in investments is a remarkable change between May of last year and May of this year, and it doesn’t quite show on this slide. You can’t add these numbers across and get it. But it’s basically up 10 million dollars in the last 12 months, and that is particularly helpful.

So net income overall is up 7 million dollars versus this time last year.

You could ask, “Well, what about revenue factors, how did this come about?” Well, you all know there was a price increase. So that price increase was in effect brought in gradually during 2012 January, February and March. This year we start the year with 30 dollar dog registration price right from the beginning so naturally there is going to be a jump this time this five months YTD versus last year’s five months YTD. The registration numbers are still below 2012 by 8 percent. That particular downward slope hasn’t changed much.

There are still hopeful signs and there’s work being done by marketing to improve that, but registration unit numbers are still continuing down.

Royalty revenues are up. They were 2.4
million vs 2.2 million last year, that's in large part because of a single collection we made on a very past due receivable in royalties area. That's not an endemic trend that's particularly good, but these numbers holding their own so to speak. CGC and event operations are noticeable change, moved from 400,000 up to 670,000 this year. We think that's good. And then the AKC CAR, numbers, AKC CAR is now providing more money to the AKC and we appreciate that. It’s up from 400,000 last year due to a change in our arrangements with CAR to 600,000 this year. Those are key revenue factors. But always we want to attack costs. Always costs are at the heart of what we're going to do because we can't just “revenue” our way out of this thing [registration decline]. We have to continue to work both sides of the income statement. So what kind of examples are we doing to attack costs? Lowering payroll. Our payroll is down largely because of unfilled positions, so one of the things you're going to hear from me as the year goes on is that [the benefits of] lower-than-last-year-payroll we begin to erode. That margin that's giving us some increased operating income is going to begin to erode as 2013 continues [as people are hired], but right now it's a healthy $500,000.

We're spending less money on retirement benefits and that's really an accounting rule that's been put in place. A lot of pension funds have been suffering as a result of the downturn in the economy and so Congress passed something that says oh, by the way, you don't have to account for all your pensions as aggressively as you used to in the past, so you can soften, that is 'slow down the rate at which you're accruing this pension liability'. And we of course have done that, but our pension liabilities remain high. We're paying less in the way of consultant's fees. This time last year, for the first five months of the year, we had been paying a 'king's ransom' in consulting fees to outside people. I think this year we're better off, not only by hiring and improving the depth in the marketing area, which we're doing, but at the same time relying a little bit less on outside consultants. Overall, the costs are down substantially and that's something we want to continue to do. But in the balance sheet area we're always balancing one thing or another; we're balancing assets and liabilities. So what you'll see here is that in our investment portfolio, we said that capital gains are better through the May, which results just recently came out. Financial Assets are continuing to be held for liabilities and unexpected contingencies. The nature of those unexpected contingencies is just that: unexpected. So you don’t know what they’re going to be and you want to keep reserves for those things. So the Board has in the past and continues to have such a reserves policy: Not only do we have assets of 111 million, we have 97 million of liabilities and reserves for unexpected contingencies. But that's a big change in our net surplus. So this is again along the lines of ‘Watch out, here we come.” We have more net surplus than we did last year. It’s not like we were bankrupt last year, but after taking into account reserves we had chosen for ourselves to hold onto, we were in fact below where we wanted to be, and now we're 14 million ahead [of where we want to be] which is good.

-Now some summary comments about the results year to date:
  • I am going to predict the uptick in May YTD results is going to be short lived. We’re continuing to see a decline in registration. We’re going to see less of a difference between the 20 dollar and the 30 dollar registration as the year progresses. Of course you see it most pronounced in the first five months of the year…that will become less and less of a difference as the year goes on.
  • Same with the unfilled positions [contributing to lower costs].
  • The affiliates are doing fine and able to continue their good works. They will continue to represent us very well with all that they do and in the case of CAR able to provide funds to the AKC for its other activities.
  • And there is more to follow for you regarding out other actions to grow.

So thank you very much, to each and every one of you.
As in other meetings in the past I’m going to be up at the dais at the end of the meeting.

These are very summary numbers, but I have lots and lots of detailed numbers which I’ll be happy to go over with anybody with any questions you may have at the end of the meeting right after.

Thanks.

There was a vote on a Proviso that was considered before the vote to Article VII, Section 1, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club.

"If the amendment to Article VII, Section 1 is adopted, effective immediately, it will not apply to any currently seated AKC Board members who may complete their current term and serve an additional consecutive term if eligible under the third paragraph of this section."
A majority vote was required to adopt the Proviso. There was a majority in the affirmative and the Proviso was adopted.

There was a vote on a proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 1, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club. This amendment would have precluded any former AKC employee from serving on the Board of Directors.

There was discussion as follows:
The Chair recognized Sue Goldberg, Delegate for the Lewiston Auburn Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
This obviously came from my club. In talking to some of the Delegates over the past few days it’s come to my attention there is some misunderstanding about how the Board comes to the decisions that they make.

One Delegate mentioned to me that it wasn’t clear to the other Delegates that it is actually a Board of Directors that makes the decisions on compensation for salary, the pensions, and the bonuses of the employees. We have a compensation committee comprised of Board members. They use these outside consultants to advise them, but the decisions come from that committee of the Board.

When we think about that, voting on this particular amendment, it’s important to understand that the Delegates who may be former employees certainly have input and value to us in our Delegate body. But those former employees do not
make management decisions or compensation decisions. Those are strictly from the Board.

No matter what outside consultants may do, the ultimate decision on the direction of this organization and the compensation of the employees still in place comes from that committee of the Board. And we owe those employees the security of knowing that those decisions are being made impartially without bias and without any grudges or axes to grind. That’s really where the conflict of interest applies.

Earlier, we talked about the social media, Twitter, Instagram. The few sportsmen that founded this organization in this late 1980s had no concept of Instagram and Twitter and Facebook and all of that. And for the same reason they did not envision that this, that the AKC at its peak would be a two corporate office, 400 employee organization. And so nothing was ever put in place to prevent conflict of interest. But now we have grown. Now it’s time to move us into the 21st Century to make this organization a corporation that has a vision and that moves forward into the future with as little conflict and as little bias as possible.

I again want to reiterate that this is not directed at any current or past employee, this is strictly putting in place a good business practice that has just fallen through the cracks over the years and I ask for your affirmative vote.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Judith Daniels, Delegate for the Mt. Baker Kennel Club who spoke as follows:

Hello and thank you. I am a former employee and I am a former Board member and I am speaking against this proposal. First, I believe that we would be on a very slippery slope by creating class distinctions and divisions within our Delegate body, those who can and those who cannot. And what might possibly be next if we start having class distinctions in our body.

Second, this proposal focuses specifically on an individual’s unknown, but potentially negative influence instead of our considering his or her potential positive experience that a past employee could bring to the Board. It reminds me of fault judging before assessing virtues in the show ring. The Board might be very well served by someone truly familiar with the inner workings of our corporation.

Third, recusal is the method that its Board members would not vote on potentially personally favorable decisions. I vote no on this. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Julian Prager, Delegate for the Central Florida Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Just to be perfectly frank, let me say that lawyers disagree on the interpretation of New York law and I happen to know that Margaret [Poindexter] does not agree with me, but New York law for not-for-profit corporations specifically permits members of the Boards of Directors as long as they disclose whatever bias they may have from participating in any discussions and votes on and require for any actions of the Board. All of the Board members are liable should they act outside of their duties and their responsibilities.

The other thing is, and this is the area where Margaret and I disagree, New York corporate law says that changes, and this is not strictly that, but changes that are designed to limit or affect the responsibilities of the Boards in these times of conflicts must be in the Articles of Incorporation. It does not mention bylaws and throughout New York law wherever changes are to be made in the Articles of Incorporation bylaws they so state. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Larry Sorenson, Delegate for the Dachshund Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I am former AKC employee. When I see rules, regulations and laws constructed, they’re usually to correct a problem, an issue or what is the objective of this? Former employees have contributed strongly to the Delegate body, to committees, and the Board. I agree with you Mr. President, let’s don’t divide the AKC. I ask you to vote no.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Peggy Wampold, Delegate for the South Windsor Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I have not now, nor have I ever been, nor do I ever plan on being on the Board. I’m not a masochist. I have never been an employee of AKC. I don’t like their lack of job security. I am merely a Delegate, but I believe I was opposed to term limits. I’m opposed to anything that limits any one of us from wanting to run for the Board.

I believe in democracy and if someone fills out a form then they should have the right to run. I will sign anyone’s petition. That doesn’t mean I’m going to vote for them, but at least they have the right to run. Thank you.

Ms. Goldberg: I’ve heard all of the objections and I understand where you’re coming from, it is a fact that the former employees do have a contribution to make, certainly they may make it as part of the Delegate body, but the benefits of putting a former employee on the Board, not the current one, we’re talking about the future, are far outweighed by the potential for conflict of interest. We have all sorts of stipulations and exceptions of who may become a judge because of the appearance of impropriety. The same thing would apply for the Board of Directors.

As far as recusals are concerned, the recusal is voluntary. One must recuse oneself and as we have seen even in cases where people have a vested interest a supposed conflict of interest that recusal doesn’t always happen. Nobody can recuse someone else. One has to recuse oneself, so in cases where there is bias we have to rely on somebody to recuse themselves and that doesn’t always happen.

As far as the personnel records that were alluded to about the performance of former employees, those personnel records in any corporation are sealed. We have no right to know about what’s in them. We don’t know about the performance of the former employee during their tenure and do not know the actual reasons for their termination or whether it was voluntary, whether they were encouraged to resign under threat of termination, whether they were fired for cause. Those records are private and
The Chair announced that at the request of the Dog Show Rules Committee, the proposed amendment to Chapter 5, Section 2, Ribbons, Prizes and Trophies, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows was withdrawn.

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

Mr. Crowley: All Breed Clubs Committee: Four, three year terms.
Bylaws Committee: Four, three year terms.
Canine Health Committee: Four, three year terms.
Delegate Advocacy Advancement Committee: Four, three year terms, and one, one year term.
Dog Show Rules Committee, Four, three year terms.
Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee: Four, three year terms, and one, two year term.
Herding, Earthdog, and Coursing Events Committee: Four, three year terms, and one, one year term.
Obedience, Tracking and Agility Committee: Four, three year terms.
Parent Clubs Committee: Four, three year terms.
Perspectives Editorial Staff: Six, two year terms.

Mr. Sprung instructed the Delegates as follows: All Delegates will be emailed self nomination forms by the end of this month. This self nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by Friday, July 19th. Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be directed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self nominate for one committee, except that a member of Perspectives Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee. In August, the Delegates will be emailed the nominees for each committee, and their qualification statements. At the September meeting following the election of committees, meeting space will be provided to each committee to elect their chairs and secretaries, if they so choose.

The Chair advised the Delegates that the September 2013 Delegates meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on Tuesday, September 10th and that as soon as a block of rooms becomes available Delegates would be emailed, and hotel information would be placed on Delegates Portal. The December Delegates meeting will be held in Orlando. The meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre on Friday, December 13th. A block of rooms will also be reserved for the Delegates’ use.

The following Delegates spoke during the New Business portion of the meeting.
Patricia Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, spoke about the work of the task force seeing funds to provide states that need them with trailers stacked with emergency supplies for companion animals.

Toni Doake, Delegate for the Town and Country Kennel Club, thanked AKC and AKC CAR for assistance after the Oklahoma tornadoes.

Jim Smith, Delegate for the Washington State Obedience Training Club, called for rescinding of the AKC Board policy to mask applicants in the judging approval process. He also expressed concern that the Board made this decision in Executive Session.

Karen Spey, Delegate for the American Pointer Club, requested that the fee to add or remove a Junior Handler be reduced.

Nancy Perrell, Delegate for the Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, wished to express appreciation to Martha Steward for advising her audience to buy from an AKC breeder.

Julien Prager, Delegate for the Central Florida Kennel Club, expressed the hope that AKC’s reported Public Relations efforts would better prepare it to handle press interviews.

John Nielson, Delegate for the English Setter Association of America, requested that AKC prepare a PowerPoint presentation about AKC and purebred dogs to enable Delegates to make presentations in their areas.

Barbara Mann, Delegate for Dayton Dog Training Club, proposed that AKC...
produce t-shirts and hats with logos promoting things like breed rescue, breeders of merit, and AKC ownership.

Robette Johns, Delegate for the California Collie Clan, thanked the Board for masking the names of Conformation judging applicants, which she believes makes the process fairer.

David Michael Powers, Delegate for the Los Encinos Kennel Club, requested that pro and con points made during discussion of a vote be included in the minutes.

Sidney Marx, Delegate for the Colorado Springs Kennel Club, criticized what he saw as a poor job by the AKC Board and staff in responding to media attacks and indicated what he believed had to be done to change this.

Carol Williamson, Delegate for the Houston Kennel Club, indicated that Dick Blair is to be the coordinator for the next issue of Perspectives.

Ann Mariah Cook, Delegate for the Siberian Husky Club of America, in following up on Barbara Mann’s comment suggested that the logos on merchandise emphasize AKC registered dogs.

Susan Sholar, Delegate for the Black Russian Club of America, called for eliminating the requirement that dogs in Junior Showmanship must be co-owned by the Junior.

Susan LaCroix Hamil, Delegate for the Shoreline Dog Fanciers of Orange County, reminded the Delegates about the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation’s biannual conference on August 9-11, in St. Louis, MO.

Larry Sorenson, Delegate for the Dachshund Club of America, expressed agreement for more logo merchandise, and suggested emphasis on purebred dogs.

John Shoemaker, Delegate for the Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern California, held up his hat which he proposed as a sample of what AKC could produce.

As there was no further business to come before the Delegate body, the meeting was adjourned. (Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.)

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