

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Delegates Meeting
December 15, 2023

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. ET.

Mr. Sprung: The meeting will come to order. Please stand for the National Anthem.
(National Anthem played.)

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. They were advised that a new onsite badge printing system was implemented that will be used moving forward. When Staff prints the badge, the Delegate is marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons on the dais: Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Leah Rivera, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of a member of the Delegate Body:

Carl E. Gomes passed away on November 1, 2023. He was the Delegate for the Pacific Coast Boston Terrier Club since 1998. AKC knew of his illness, so before his passing, we had his 25-year Delegate service medallion delivered to his home. It meant a great deal to Carl.

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

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Patti Strand, Chair – Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon
- Marilyn DeGregorio – Taconic Hills Kennel Club
- Florence Duggan – Sussex Hills Kennel Club
- Don James – Leonberger Club of America
- Barbara Shaw – Greater Collin Kennel Club

and Alternates:

- Terrie Breen – Farmington Valley Kennel Club
- Douglas Johnson – Colorado Springs Kennel Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2023 meeting have nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 12, 2024. There are 3 vacancies for the Class of 2028.

CLASS OF 2028

- Dr. Carmen Battaglia – German Shepherd Dog Club of America

- Sally Fineburg – Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.
- Dr. Michael Knight – Texas Kennel Club, Inc.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegate has been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2028, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 12, 2024:

- Laurie Maulucci – South Windsor Kennel Club

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2023.

In accordance with the Delegate Standing Rule, each candidate is allowed three minutes to address the Delegates. Keith Frazier, AKC EVP of Business Support Services, indicated to the candidates when three minutes have expired. The Chair introduced the candidates who spoke in alphabetical order and no questions from the floor were entertained.

The first candidate for the Class of 2028 was Dr. Carmen Battaglia representing German Shepherd Dog Club of America. He spoke as follows:

Good morning. My name is Carmen Battaglia. I've had dogs all my life; Pembroke Corgis, English Springers, Portuguese Water Dogs, Long-haired Dachshunds and my primary breed is a German Shepherd Dog. I've been active in Obedience and Agility and finished many dogs in Conformation. I have twice been President of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and the German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta. I belong to a group club in Atlanta, two specialty clubs, and the Atlanta All-Breed club. While in graduate school, I studied Mendel's first and second law of genetics and began doing dog research based on those two laws. When I became Assistant Dean at Emory University in Atlanta, I continued much of the research I started while I was in graduate school. When I became the Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Education, I had responsibilities for the 350 post-secondary institutions in the eight southeastern states. My job was to work with the presidents and the deans. In the south, there are many high profile, quality research institutions, and when I visited one of them, I would stay over and meet with the researchers. Clubs began to ask me to write about these visits. This started my career in research and writing. Since then, I've written 70 articles and four books on breeding dogs, selecting puppies, early neurological stimulation, and the risks of bloat, and have published most of them in veterinary journals. When I became an AKC Board member, I was asked to chair the Committee for the Future, out of which came the AKC DNA Profile Program that we have today. Currently, I co-chair with Chris Sweetwood, the AKC Detection Dog Task Force, whose goal is to develop a domestic breeding program for detection dogs. So far, we've done pretty well. We've placed 80 dogs and we have breeders in 40 states. I am proud to be on the board of the AKC Reunite and work with the Adopt-a-K9-Cop Program, which has placed 500 dogs in police departments throughout the country. As an active member of AKC PAC Board, I hope you all will send in a small contribution to help us support the elected officials who vote to preserve our rights to breed and own dogs. I need your vote in March 2024. I'm asking you to support the Nominating Committee's

recommendation for my return to the AKC Board of Directors. Vote for me. My name is Carmen Battaglia.

The second candidate for the Class of 2028 was Sally Fineburg representing Hatboro Dog Club. She spoke as follows:

Hi. I'm Sally Fineburg, Delegate for Hatboro Dog Club. I am running for the Board because I love purebred dogs and it would be a true privilege to give back serving on the Board of The American Kennel Club.

In the fancy, I prioritize the importance of form following function. It seems an apt metaphor for evaluating Board candidates.

My form, my innate abilities, include:

- active listening skills
- the desire and ability to collaborate
- natural leadership abilities
- strong communication skills
- creativity
- enthusiasm
- and most notably, I am continually learning

My function, made up of diverse skill sets acquired throughout life's journey, include business acumen, fiscal responsibility, intuitive understanding of adapting to corporate cultures and ability to empower a team. They have served me well as a Delegate, dog and non-dog club volunteer, breeder, exhibitor and business owner and I believe prepare me to function effectively and with confidence on the AKC Board.

I am a preservation breeder, owner, and active exhibitor of Ridgebacks for two decades. I am thrilled to own, handle and breed dogs achieving multiple top rankings in Conformation, Lure Coursing and Obedience.

I have bred dogs earning Multiple Bests in Show and Bests in Show Owner-Handled, Bench Champions, Grand Champions, Dual Champions and a Triple Champion. No easy feat on a sighthound. I am proud to have owned and handled the first and still only Ridgeback to earn a Champion Tracker.

My Delegate credentials include currently serving on the All-Breed Clubs and Juniors Committees. Previously I served on HECS. I participated on various subcommittees on all of them. My favorite achievement, I proposed the newly adopted Junior Coordinator role. I have been an active club volunteer for 25 years. In fact, I joined my Parent and regional Rhodesian Ridgeback clubs before even owning a dog. I have held almost every position including President, Vice President, Delegate, Board Director, Show Chair and more. Professionally, I am Vice President of a third-generation family owned and operated petroleum company. It features a network of gasoline stations and convenience stores as well as

wholesale and retail fuel oil. I entered the company, bringing a breadth of experience from my careers in advertising, filmmaking, television news production and dot-com start-ups.

I believe my form and function, specifically my strong communication skills, thoughtful approach and business acumen combined with my creative background and dog world experience prepares me to be an asset to the AKC Board. I would be honored to earn your vote.

The third candidate for the Class of 2028 was Dr. Michael Knight, representing the Texas Kennel Club. He spoke as follows:

I grew up in a family where we were raised to say, Michael, let everybody see the work. Never talk about it, never say, I, I, I. So, now I have to stand before you and use the words I, I, I, and I apologize upfront. First of all, we have finished 65 Standard Poodles, three Toy Poodles, nine Miniature Poodles, and 14 Pekingese, so we very much love being active in the show ring. I am a Conformation person with a tremendous amount of respect for all the other Companion and Performance Events and everything else AKC does and offers, but in my core, Conformation is where I am comfortable in the ring. I hold a Ph.D. in Human Resources and a Ph.D. in Theological Marriage Counseling. But if your marriage is in trouble, you don't want to talk to me. I am an active member of the Dallas Philanthropic League. I am considered an extreme wealth fundraiser in my second life. This year, I raised \$50 million for children's cancer. I raised \$20 million for women's breast cancer, I did that by myself. I'm a team of nine people. We try to raise \$100 million every year. We usually go over our goal, but the \$70 million I do each year by myself. Anyway, we turn right around and spend the money mainly on children that are not covered by insurance and can't afford proper or good care.

I speak often at local schools about being active in AKC and our dog show events, how to pick a breed for your family, the possibility of becoming a handler. I put together a program of how exactly to do that and grow your business. The program has gone over very well. So far, I've spoken to 14 local schools. We have 47 locally in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

I want to thank Dr. Tom Davies, Dominic Carota, Dr. Charlie Garvin, Anne Bowes and Nancy Fisk for putting me on ten committees. I am Chairman of your Investment Committee. I was Chairman of Pension, but now I am an active member on the Pension Committee. The AKC portfolio is very strong. Our Pension Committee for our retirees is very guarded. We make sure it stays in great shape. I am also on the Compensation Committee. I used my 38 years in staffing, which is what I do for a living. I own a staffing company. We have a small boutique company. We place C-suite people all around the world, but I use my staffing ability to work to make sure our salaries are in line with every other company in our size in the United States. I'm on the Breeders Committee. We've done a tremendous amount of work there. I'm also on the Juniors Committee. I am the liaison for the Parent Club. I work on Mari-Beth O'Neill's Veterinary Scholarship Program which we have tripled. I'm out of time, so the rest I'll send to you in an email.

The final candidate for the Class of 2028 was Laurie Maulucci representing South Windsor Kennel Club. She spoke as follows:

Good morning. My name is Laurie Maulucci, and I am the Delegate for South Windsor Kennel Club. My involvement with AKC was first as an exhibitor and then a breeder of Great Danes. I fell in love with the sport of Conformation and have bred and owned multiple #1 and record-breaking Danes. I have been an AKC Judge since 2007 and was chosen by my peers to judge BOB at our National.

I am a contributing member of eight AKC clubs. Positions I have held include Show Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Cluster Coordinator, Division Chair, Top 20 Chair and Sponsor Chair. My clubs host an RHP Juniors Clinic every November open to AKC and 4-H Juniors with an average attendance of 92 Juniors, and I co-founded Jackets for Juniors. One of my accomplishments as our Parent Club Sponsor Chair was in 2017 raising \$82,000 for our National Specialty through sponsorships.

I am also a member of the AKC Trial Board Committee and President of the Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs. I work closely with AKC Government Relations and Connecticut residents to protect our right to own the dog of our choice.

As a Delegate, I serve on the All-Breed Clubs Committee, chaired the Event Analysis Subcommittee and served as a member of the Group Realignment Subcommittee and the Nominating Committee.

I hope you can hear I am passionate about my involvement with AKC and the many AKC affiliated organizations to which I contribute, truly on a daily basis. The wide variety of experience I have gained provides me with the knowledge and skills to make significant contributions to the work of the AKC Board.

I feel strongly about enhancing the general public's knowledge of who we are and the spectacular things that we do. Our detractors constantly find a way to secure media coverage for their good deeds yet our initiatives like trailers being rolled out to disaster sites never make the 6 o'clock news. This has to change, and improved communication is where we begin. My strengths include the ability to effectively communicate and collaborate, both of which are key to success as a member of any board, including that of AKC.

Our current AKC Board continually demonstrates to us its ability to work as a cohesive team in order to accomplish its goals. Serving you on the board would allow me to contribute at the highest level, and it would be my honor. Thank you for your consideration.

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

Wayne Bond, Silverdale, WA, to represent Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club

Cameron R. Capozzi, Crossville, TN, to represent Queensboro Kennel Club

Alfred Ferruggiario, Burtonsville, MD, to represent National Capital Kennel Club

Leslie C. Gelesh, Akron, OH, to represent All-Breed Training Club of Akron

Heidi Kilgore, Winslow, IN, to represent Evansville Kennel Club
Teresa Nash, DeSoto, KS, to represent American Belgian Tervuren Club
Helen Norton, Fredericksburg, VA, to represent Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club
Claire Parker, Nashville, TN, to represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
Joan Payton, Bakersfield, CA, to represent German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Dr. LeeAnn Podruch, Hatley, WI, to represent Silky Terrier Club of America
Renee Lynn Popkey, Brooksville, FL, to represent Pasco Florida Kennel Club
Sandra Schumacher, Great Falls, MT, to represent Papillon Club of America
Susan Sorbo, Bradenton, FL, to represent Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia
Elisabeth Szymanski, Milford, PA, to represent Wallkill Kennel Club

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

Wayne Bond to represent Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club
Cameron R. Capozzi to represent Queensboro Kennel Club
Kathy DelGrande to represent Pacific Coast Bulldog Club
Alfred Ferruggiaro to represent National Capital Kennel Club
David McDonald to represent Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America
Teresa Nash to represent American Belgian Tervuren Club
Claire Parker to represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
Joan Payton to represent German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Dr. LeeAnn Podruch to represent Silky Terrier Club of America
Renee Lynn Popkey to represent Pasco Florida Kennel Club
Sandra Schumacher to represent Papillon Club of America
Susan Sorbo to represent Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia
Elisabeth Szymanski to represent Wallkill Kennel Club

The minutes of the September 12, 2023, Delegate Meeting were published in the online October 2023 *AKC Gazette*, and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

The **Barbet Club of America** was duly elected a member of The Great American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning everyone, and welcome to Orlando. It's a pleasure to be with you all as we head into another historic weekend.

The AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin has the largest entry on record, proving once again that our show is the most anticipated and prestigious dog show in North America. It is certainly the largest, as overall entries for *all* of our AKC events in Orlando total a staggering number: 9,801 entries.

All of these dogs are competing with dedicated breeders, owners and handlers in seven events and attractions:

- the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin, with 5,762 entries,
- the AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes,
- the AKC Agility Invitational Presented by YuMOVE®,
- the AKC Obedience Classic,
- the AKC Junior Obedience and Rally Showcase,
- the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, and
- the AKC Fast CAT® Invitational.

I know you will enjoy watching your own breeds, and there's so much to do while we are here. But I urge you to take some time to get to know new people and spend time learning something you didn't know before. Visit more than one event; join the cheering section at the National Association of Diving Dog's annual Santa Splash; or take in some of the educational opportunities at the Royal Canin learning lounge. Watch a breed other than your own.

The world lost a financial genius a couple of weeks ago. Charlie Munger passed at the age of 99. Charlie was the other half of the duo that, with Warren Buffett, created the Berkshire-Hathaway financial empire. I tell you this because Charlie always had a message. He once said, *"Those who keep learning will keep rising in life."* He paraphrased this in a less formal way, saying, *"Without learning, you're like a one-legged man in an ass-kicking contest. It's just not going to work for you very well."* And for the judges in the audience today, remember another piece of Munger's advice as you approach assignments here or in the coming year: *"Own your work and compound credibility."*

It has been another banner year for AKC events. Estimates tell us that by the end of 2023, there will have been more than 26,500 events with over 3.65 million entries. We are delighted that AKC and our clubs are able to offer our constituents so many opportunities to compete with and have fun with their dogs. This incredible range of events adds more potential for us to engage new dog owners as well.

I'd like to tell you about some new developments from AKC that will be important for you to share with your clubs.

Just a few days ago, AKC launched the new AKC DNA + Health. Now, we offer one test for all our breeders' needs. The test includes the 201 markers of the original AKC DNA profile for genetic identity and parentage verification purposes, and now it also includes 328 markers for health and other traits. Our DNA test provides information that is relevant to the conditions that matter most, according to our AKC Parent Clubs. Our test also meets AKC requirements for Breeder of Merit and Bred with Heart. We have two genetic counselors and a breeder veterinarian on staff to answer questions and provide guidance every step of the way, from administering the test to interpreting the results. DNA testing is not required in every situation, but it certainly enhances our knowledge of our dogs and is an excellent addition to our toolkit as responsible breeders. The test is available on AKC.org and you should receive your results in about four weeks.

Last week, we launched a new web site to provide a valuable incentive for dog registration. AKC Pet Rx is an online pharmacy that sells more than 3,000 prescription and over-the-counter products for pets. The service is provided by Allivet, a website that is fully accredited by the National Boards of Pharmacy, licensed in all states, and has 19 years of experience in pet e-commerce. If you have purchased prescriptions for your dogs on Petsmart.com or WalMart.com, you have shopped with Allivet. Our primary goal with this initiative is to make more dog owners want to register their purebred dog with AKC. With AKC Pet Rx, new puppy owners will receive a free monthly dose of Simparica Trio flea, tick and heartworm treatment when they register their dog and accept this offer with a commitment to auto-shipping on this site. This is a value of more than \$32 for the new puppy owner. AKC Pet Rx will feature other types of discounts for breeders as well. It is our hope that this website will give new dog owners one more reason to join our ranks.

Lastly, I am thrilled to announce that we have recently renewed our contract with Royal Canin to present this incredible dog show to our fancy and the national television audience of millions of people, for many more years. Please join me in thanking Royal Canin when you see their representatives on the show floor throughout the weekend. Their support is vital to our sport in so many ways.

Enjoy the season, no matter what Holiday you celebrate; Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or the Winter Solstice, and live by the words of the Prophet Muhammed, "Speak a good word or remain silent." I learned that lesson well, as a lad from my mother, after she smacked me upside the head. She said, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." Thank you, enjoy the Show and learn lots.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President's Report as follows:

During my career at The Great American Kennel Club, I have had the privilege of establishing ways of recognizing individuals in our universe. Amongst them are the Lifetime Achievement Awards in Performance, Companion and Conformation Events and the Medallion Programs for Delegates, Show Chairs, Judges and Breeders. I initiated these programs because of my belief that we have an obligation to honor our own.

In 2015 I added the AKC Visionary Awards. These Awards celebrate individuals whose vision and contributions have been responsible for change and forward movement in our organization. Their collective efforts have protected our rights to own and breed dogs, shared the AKC's dedication and love of dogs with the general public, and educated today's and tomorrow's dog owners about responsible ownership.

Now to today's four Visionary Award recipients:

Michael Houchard serves as the Delegate for Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia. Mike has been in purebred dogs for some 50 years and had the foresight to recognize the central role that legislation would play in our future. Amongst his many, many accomplishments:

- He is a founding member and continuing leader of the AKC Delegate Legislative Caucus.

- He developed and recorded the presentation *All Politics Is Local* that is a key educational tool in the AKC Government Relations library.
- He remains an active force in the Georgia Canine Coalition, AKC's State Federation. Attending his last meeting as an AKC Delegate today, we thank you for protecting our dogs, clubs and sports.

Ron Furman, AKC VP Broadcasting & Sponsorship, joined us in 2018. In a short period of time, Ron transformed the broadcasting, sponsorship, and media landscape at the AKC. Thanks to him, we expanded our television presence with the incredibly successful AKC on ESPN Dog Sports Series. Currently entering its fifth year, the AKC on ESPN series includes over 200 hours of dog sports on television, culminating with the broadcast of the AKC National Championship on the ABC network.

Ron is also the leader with AKC.tv, our digital network available on multiple streaming platforms. Now *AKC Good Dog TV*, a weekly show produced for AKC.tv, is available in syndication on local channels across the country in over 90 markets. This growth in broadcasting efforts has allowed the AKC brand and messaging to reach millions of viewers new to the AKC universe through exciting dog sports, outstanding storytelling, and showcasing purebred dogs.

Dr. Joellen Gregory was an AKC Vet Scholarship recipient while attending Veterinary School. Her current practice supports breeders in their endeavors to be responsible preservation breeders.

Joellen became an AKC Delegate, representing the Otterhound Club of America since November of 2009 and serves on the Delegate Canine Health Committee.

The Otterhound Club began to research whether the Club could establish a semen bank to preserve the breed for the future. Once the Parent Club approved the concept, Joellen spearheaded the work with AKC to establish how the registration process of dogs produced from the semen bank would be registered.

She is an advocate for mentoring new owners and breeders in the breed. We are appreciative of her foresight to look to the future to preserve the breed.

Last but certainly not least, **Karolynne McAteer** is a second-generation Irish Setter breeder. She has never been without one or more Irish Setters at the foot of her bed, and she, like her breed standard, has a rollicking personality. Starting as a junior handler, then as exhibitor of the family dog, professional handler, Breeder of Merit, and judge for Juniors, Sporting Group and Field Trials; her knowledge of our sport is wide and deep. She serves on the AKC Board of Directors, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Reunite, the AKC Political Action Committee, and the Moore County Kennel Club in North Carolina.

In 2019, Karolynne was appointed to lead the AKC Chairman's ad hoc committee on Canine Genetic Testing which produced 5 papers in 2020. Those papers outlined the future of AKC's DNA Program, setting the agenda for the necessary program enhancements that are launching this very month, including canine health testing and genetic counseling for AKC breeders. (The recipients that were present accepted the award plaques.)

Ted Phillips, CFO, gave the Financial Report as follows:

Thank you, Dennis, and good morning. Delegates, welcome to Orlando! We appreciate you attending today's meeting and, as always, appreciate your time and support. Today, I'll present key performance indicators and financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. As a reminder, these data points, both non-financial and financial, are essential to telling the story of the AKC operating results.

This chart provides a comparison of litter and dog registrations for the nine months ended, September 30, 2023, with a comparison to 2022. Please note the light blue columns on these slides report litter registrations. As of September 30, 2023, litter registrations totaled 226,939, which is 8.7 percent lower than the same period in 2022. For dog registrations, we'll focus on the pink columns on the slide, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2023, dog registrations totaled 480,128, which is 14.7 percent lower than in the same period in 2022. Please understand that while these numbers show lower, litter and dog registrations represent 39 percent of total revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. Once again, we always thank our breeders, the Delegate Body, the Board of Directors, and our Staff for these achievements.

Turning to Sports & Events, we continue to see an increase in the total number of events and entries as displayed on this slide. The dark blue columns report the total number of events for each period. As of September 30, 2023, total events are 19,981, which is 7 percent higher than the same period in 2022. The line across the top of the two columns shows that entries have climbed by 5 percent over the prior period to 2.782 million, and as you heard earlier, we expect 2023 to be a banner year for events and entries.

Next, let's look at the financial operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. Total operating revenues of \$76.3 million were reported, which generated net operating income of \$10.2 million. As we mentioned earlier, revenues are principally generated by registration and event fees. When you compare the nine months ended September 30, 2023, for the same period of 2022, total revenue is 5.3 percent lower. Registration and event fees total \$53 million, or 70% of total revenue. To break that down, we see that litter and dog registrations and related revenues total \$41 million for this period in 2023, and event fees total \$12 million. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalty revenues total \$14.3 million, or 19% of total year-to-date revenue, which is comparable with the same period in 2022. Operating expenses, as of September 30, 2023, total \$67.9 million, which is 10 percent higher than the same period in the prior year. We follow a very tight cost control methodology across all categories and ensure that expenses are kept at appropriate business levels. Half of total operating expenses are related to staff expense and travel costs, and total \$33.6 million, which is 17 percent higher

than 2022, representing AKC's efforts of investment in the future. All programs and activities listed here have available funds and are in line with the 2023 budget. Our Government Relations Staff promotes the mission of AKC through its continuing support of legislation at the state and federal levels and is sufficiently funded. Annual donations from AKC to charitable organizations average 5 percent of operating expenses and are consistent with prior years.

This slide presents the AKC's financial position as of September 30, 2023. Total assets are \$253 million or \$9.6 million higher than December 31, 2022. Investments and cash comprised the largest portion of total assets at \$171 million. The investment portfolio, which is professionally managed for growth using a balanced asset allocation methodology, has returned 6 percent this year, beating its benchmark by 1.4 percent. As we've seen, the financial markets are generally improving in 2023 as compared to 2022. The overall financial condition of AKC continues to be healthy due to positive mission-related activities and solid support from the Board of Directors.

In summary, we thank you for your time today. We appreciate your dedication to AKC, and as always, I'm available to answer any questions. My contact information is noted on the last slide of this presentation. I wish you a good meeting. Thank you.

The first vote was an amendment to **Article XIII, Section 2**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for a Trial Board notice of charges being filed. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

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

The next vote was on the amendment to **Article XIII, Section 7**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes the italics that do not affect the meaning of the sentence about an appeal of a Trial Board decision. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

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

The next vote was on the amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for an Event Committee suspension by a club or association. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

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

The next vote was an amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 13**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which removes the reference to sweepstakes and futurity judges from the rule as any restrictions have historically

been defined by Board policy. It also replaces the third paragraph of the current rule with a general statement that directs individuals to the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Judges* for information concerning exhibiting restrictions for sweepstakes, futurity and special attraction judges as they are defined by Board policy. This amendment was proposed by Staff, endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

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

The next vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 16, Section 1**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which removes verbiage related to the Parent Club designating one specialty as its National Specialty show as this text was inserted with the amendment to allow Parent Clubs the option to offer a 3-pt. major for Reserve Winners at its National Specialty and it would no longer be relevant for purpose of this section. It replaces Parent Club with breed club and National Specialty with specialty show to reflect the ability for a 3-pt. major to be awarded for Reserve Winners at any specialty show. It also rearranges text for better understanding and comprehension as well as removes the provision which only applied to the 2021 calendar year. This amendment was proposed by Staff, endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Harvey Goldberg, Delegate for the Somerset Hills Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

We object to the change in this section and wish to keep it the same as it was before. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Matthew Townsend, Delegate for the Carolina Working Group Association, who spoke as follows:

We strongly endorse the change and think it's wonderful for local specialty clubs, all low-entry specialty clubs nationally and Parent Clubs. It's an option and it's in control by the Parent Clubs. I think that's why it was endorsed by the Dog Show Rules Committee and by the Board.

Mr. Sprung: To clarify, it's an opt-out.

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

The last vote for was an amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 29**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, which removes the restriction that if the club fails to hold the horseback championship, it may lose the ability to hold the walking championship. This amendment was proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

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

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article XII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Article XII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, makes the process of administering oaths easier and uniform for all individuals. It also clarifies the decision to entertain jurisdiction is under the authority of the AKC Board of Directors.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee, endorsed by Staff and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 12, Section 1 and Section 4**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – The Catalog*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 12, Section 1 and Section 4**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – The Catalog*, deletes the requirement to publish the complete address for judges, replacing with city and state. It also deletes the requirement to publish the address of all exhibitors, replacing with city, state and email if provided. Finally, it replaces the address of the owner with city, state, and if provided, email address, removing the requirement to publish the full address of the owner in the show catalog.

This amendment was suggested by Staff and endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Mary Grace Buckwalter, Delegate for the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, who spoke as follows:

My question is on the email provided. Provided to whom? Because at this point, the superintendents and the secretaries all have it. I'm wondering if there could be something indicating to publish my email address or do not publish my email address. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: If you wish to make an amendment, that could be done at the March 2024 meeting.

The Chair announced that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 3, Section 1** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* and to **Chapter 3, Section 3** 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 will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, 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*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, 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*, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, 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*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, 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*, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair announced that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* and the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials. It also adjusts the description for placement ribbons and removes the mention of the NBQ designation unless the format is brace or gun dog brace. Finally, it instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials. It also adjusts the description for placement ribbons and removes the mention of the NBQ designation unless the format is brace or gun dog brace. Finally, it instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair announced that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 9, Section 5** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* and to **Chapter 9, Section 6** 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* will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 5**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 5**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, allows judges to award a fifth place which would provide $\frac{1}{5}$ championship point to the winner for each starter for all hunt formats except the brace and gun dog brace.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 6 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*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 6 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*, allows judges to award a fifth place which would provide $\frac{1}{5}$ championship point to the winner for each starter for all hunt formats except the brace and gun dog brace.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval 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 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota, to present the Eddy Awards.

Mr. Carota: Breeder education is essential for the success of any breeding program, a fact well understood by all of us. The AKC is deeply committed to promoting and supporting creative methods for educating breeders about canine health, reproduction, and the principles of responsible dog ownership. This commitment led to the establishment of the EDDY Award, designed to honor breed clubs that have made remarkable contributions to breeder education within their specific breeds and beyond.

During our inaugural year, we were thrilled to receive 15 entries from breed clubs across almost every category. Selecting the winners was a challenging task, as we had to consider factors like the user-friendliness, originality, and potential for replication of each program. Ultimately, eight breed clubs distinguished themselves by developing resources and programs that were not only educational and goal-oriented but also engaging and enjoyable. It is with great pride that we award these clubs with certificates, recognizing them as the esteemed 2023 winners of the AKC EDDY Award.

1. Norfolk Terrier Club – Delegate, Susan Schneider
2. Pug Dog Club of America – Delegate, Michelle Anderson
3. American Bullmastiff Association – Delegate, Howard Gussis
4. Dachshund Club of America – Delegate, Larry Sorenson
5. Basset Hound Club of America – Delegate, Dr. Norine E. Noonan
6. Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America – Delegate, Sara Karl
7. Doberman Pinscher Club of America – Delegate, Glen Lajeski
8. American Eskimo Dog Club of America – not yet an AKC Member Club, no Delegate

All those Delegates that are here, please come forward and I will give you your certificates, and for those that are not here, we will send them their certificates. Thank you.
(The recipients that were present accepted the award certificates.)

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate for the Atlanta Obedience Club, to provide an update on the AKC PAC, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. I want to remind you that the sweepstakes, which is the major fundraiser for the AKC PAC ends Sunday with the drawing. It is a lovely basket of goodies with a \$1000 gift card. I have tickets if you see me right afterwards. Sheila Goffe also has tickets available tomorrow and Sunday at the Government Relations/PAC booth. I come up every time and I thank you, and I mean it sincerely, for your donations, because as we all know, we are really trying to preserve our breeding and ownership of dogs by having officials who think like the AKC does on issues affecting us, but I thought it would be good for you to hear from a long-time donor – why they give and why they think it's important. I have asked Dr. Garvin to speak on why he and Lynn (Garvin) feel the way they do and have been such generous donors to the PAC.

Dr. Charles Garvin, Delegate for the Dalmatian Club of America, spoke as follows:

Thank you, Gail. We know that we are all in a terrible battle. We're attacked every day from the animal rights radicals and other people, and the battle ground is frequently in the hearts and minds of elected officials or appointed officials, and I don't have a very high opinion of politicians. I find that they are frequently selfish, self-centered, self-aggrandizing, depraved, debouched, disgusting, dishonest, deceitful, disloyal, disingenuous, and have a tendency to be despicable, corrupt, lying hypocrites. I hate politicians. However, I love Sheila Goffe and her team. Sheila Goffe is the person who goes into battle for us. She's our gladiator. When she goes into battle, I want her to have all the ammunition that she needs to confront and to overcome our adversaries on the battlefield with the politicians. In order to have that ammunition, in order that she can do the best job possible, that requires funding, which is why Lynn and I feel it's important to give to PAC so that we can fight the battle. Not that we fight the battle, but Sheila fights the battle with our support and our ammunition to help preserve what we love about our purebred dogs and the sport. I encourage all of you – unless you really love politicians, I encourage all of you to also donate to PAC. Thank you.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the DoubleTree Newark Airport Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. The meeting will include the election of the Class of 2028 Board of Directors. More detailed information will be emailed as soon as it becomes available.

Lunch was served in the Grand Ballroom C. Delegates were not required to turn in badges. New badges will be printed at each meeting using the new system. There was an option to recycle the badge holder and lanyard.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Link Newcomb, Delegate for the Bulldog Club of America, asked that the Delegate Body keep fellow Delegate, Johnny Shoemaker, in their thoughts and prayers over the holiday as he has endured health challenges.

Peter Piusz, Delegate for the American Rottweiler Club, spoke on behalf of the Parent Clubs Committee about the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Awards. The Delegate Parent Clubs Committee created the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Award to celebrate Pat's life and encourage others to follow her example. The award will be given to individuals whose actions are making a difference for the dogs, their people, and our sport. The recipients will be selected by the members of the Parent Clubs Committee and the awards will be given at each meeting of the committee. The award will include a pin identifying the recipients as winners of the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Award. Three different committee members select four recipients each quarter, which is then discussed and voted on by the committee. The first set of recipients were Alan Kalter, Jeff Pepper, Johnny Shoemaker and Sylvia Thomas.

Virginia "Gini" Denninger, Delegate for the Genesee Valley Kennel Club and Coordinator for the March 2024 *Perspectives* encouraged the Delegates to contribute to the issue. She

announced that the due date for articles was January 15, 2024. She also introduced a new feature of the newsletter *Guess What This Puppy Is* in which the Delegate Body will have the opportunity to guess the breed in photos of puppies.

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America shared as President of Greater Clark County Kennel Club, that the club celebrated its 50th Anniversary over two weekends with some amazing entry numbers. During the four days of shows, Conformation, Obedience and Rally had 7200 entries and there were 1100 Agility runs. There were also 87 Farm Dog passes and over 100 temperament tests. Their Junior Club presented a Junior Showcase as well as CGC tests and Trick Dog.

Bob Rynkiewicz, Delegate for the German Shorthaired Pointer Club, recognized Jim Corbett for his many years of service and leadership on the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee.

Glenda Stephenson, Delegate for the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay requested that at the upcoming January 2024 meeting, the AKC Board decide on a timeframe that clubs are responsible for incidents during a show. She also made a heartfelt thank you to all the people and dogs who came to Florida.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 12:15 p.m. ET.)

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