

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Delegates Meeting
March 14, 2023

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. ET.

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk, so they would be recorded as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais. On my immediate left is our Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies. To his left is the Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota. On my right is Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian. To her right is Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and to Ms. DiNardo's right is Shari Cathey, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of Dennis McCoy, on February 18, 2023. He was the Delegate for the Poodle Club of America since 2022.

The Executive Secretary will now read the report of the Nominating Committee.

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

- Sylvia A. Thomas, Chair – Kennel Club of Riverside
- Karen J. Burgess – Greater Clark County Kennel Club
- Marge B. Calltharp – Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
- Linda C. Flynn – South Shore Kennel Club
- Laurie Maulucci – South Windsor Kennel Club

and Alternates:

- Connie Clark – American Fox Terrier Club
- Don Hanson – American Lhasa Apso Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2022 meeting have nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as to be filled today at the annual meeting of the Club on March 14, 2023. There are 3 vacancies for the Class of 2027.

Nominees for the Class of 2027 are:

- Dr. Charles Garvin – Dalmatian Club of America
- Steven Hamblin – Pekingese Club of America
- Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. – Burlington County Kennel Club

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 2027, to be filled today at the annual meeting of the Club on March 14, 2023:

- Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara – Two Cities Kennel Club

Mr. Sprung: reported that the Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2022. Delegates ~~were~~ reminded that elections, in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, require a majority vote to elect.

The election procedure was overseen by the accounting firm of KPMG. The ballots were scanned and tabulated electronically. All candidates were offered the opportunity to observe the election procedures. [There was a brief recess as the Delegates cast their ballots.]

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

Dr. Marci Cook, Columbus, MT to represent Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America
Arlene A. Czech, Naples, FL to represent Greater Naples Dog Club
Joseph Fitzgerald, Jefferson, MD to represent Catoctin Kennel Club
Carla D. Giroux, Stevensville, MT to represent Idaho Capital City Kennel Club
Holly Johnson, Ipswich, MA to represent North Shore Kennel Club
Kim Raleigh, Albuquerque, NM to represent Finnish Spitz Club of America
Bradford Yamada, Las Vegas, NV to represent Orange Empire Dog Club

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

Connie Brown to represent Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association
Dr. Marci Cook to represent Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America
Joseph Fitzgerald to represent Catoctin Kennel Club
Jennifer Martin to represent the Weimaraner Club of America
Nancy Nelson to represent Hungarian Pumi Club of America
Kim Raleigh to represent Finnish Spitz Club of America
Barbara Reisinger to represent Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association
Theresa Wilson to represent Columbia Missouri Kennel Club
Bradford Yamada to represent Orange Empire Dog Club

The minutes of the December 16, 2022 Delegate Meeting were published in the online January 2023 *AKC Gazette* and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as published. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

Chinook Club of America and **Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia** were duly elected as members of The American Kennel Club.

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

Welcome to Newark, on this lovely snowy day. At our last meeting in Orlando, we convened for the AKC National Championship, and shared the event with the public via our streaming broadcast. The televising of our dog show went exceptionally well. As an update, I would like to share with you some comments about the biggest TV show in our AKC line-up and tell you about other exciting developments in the broadcasting side of our organization.

The "ANC" premiered on the ABC television network on New Year's Day. This was our third year on ABC, which has helped our show build and grow a dedicated audience. There were over 1.3 million viewers on average for the three-hour show, peaking at nearly 2 million viewers for Best in Show. It was so exciting to see each and every breed represented in the show. A one-hour highlights show was edited from the original, as has been done for the past three years, and was aired on ESPN as part of a programming block on Super Bowl Sunday. Those viewers who could tear themselves away from the Eagles, the Chiefs and Rihanna were in for a real treat: four hours of AKC dogs doing what they do best.

The AKC National Championship TV production continues to be one of our greatest assets, as it allows us to showcase all the merits of purebred dogs, our Sport and the AKC to mass audiences. Importantly, the Show continues on as the legacy of our dear friend and visionary leader, Ron Menaker.

I would also like to tell you about the terrific progress we are making with AKC Companion Events on television, specifically with the ESPN Networks. For decades, the general public has associated AKC only with Conformation dog shows. Not many people know that we offer 26 sports for dog enthusiasts to enjoy – with Agility being among our most popular. In 2022 we produced and aired ten different shows which featured individual sport competitions for Agility and Fast CAT® as well as “AKC-adjacent” events: Flyball, Disc Dog and Detection Dog.

We also had a specially produced show about the dogs that won the AKC Humane Fund’s Awards for Canine Excellence. Notably, we were able to film the AKC Agility Invitational for ESPN2 for the first time last year, which meant we had two world-class productions being filmed during our flagship event at the same time.

All of these fast-paced sports shows portrayed the athletic talents of purebred dogs, and each one enjoyed several debut and encore performances, with a total of 120 broadcasts. These shows were on the air for more than 200 hours. The network loves this content so much that the number of shows and airtime increased more than 25 percent over the prior year.

Under the leadership of Gina DiNardo and Bill Ellis, AKC Staff produces these programs and delivers them to ESPN, so the content is always on our terms. Therefore, we can include not only our sponsors but also promotions for important AKC programs and messaging such as AKC.tv, the “If it Barks” campaign and the *Pupdate* educational newsletter for new puppy registrants.

In all, the ESPN networks’ airings of AKC productions in 2022 garnered over 200 million impressions, and this exposure is on track to increase as we create more shows. The value that AKC has received for the airtime in 2022 is worth well over \$6 million. Folks, this is publicity that we did not have to buy! I want to make it clear that while we do produce our shows on our own behalf, the advertising that we sell and place into the programs more than covers those expenses thanks to the efforts of Ron Furman and Daphna Straus. It’s a fantastic win-win for AKC.

Coming up later in the year, there will be even more places to enjoy AKC televised content. AKC.tv has been picked up by more streaming channels, and we will have AKC.tv’s *Dog Center* show syndicated for the local, New York-area Fox television station on weekends starting this summer. Be on the lookout for press announcements describing when and how to watch all of this wonderful programming.

As the public’s desire for dogs and information about them continues to grow, AKC is poised and ready to educate and entertain everyone to greater extents and more effectively than ever before. To those who want to know more about purebred dogs and our sports, we offer clubs, events, web sites and great television – across the country and all throughout the year.

Tune in and join the fun! Thank you.

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

Congratulations to the Great American Kennel Club on our increased services and achievements in 2022. To mention a few:

Sports & Events surpassed each former record and set new highs with events and entries at 25,178 and 3,549,472 respectively. Congratulations to Doug, Tim and Mari-Beth’s Sports Services.

Litters and individual dog registrations have increased year over year with the added plus of 6 percent growth in the number of unique breeders. Thank you, Mark.

Under Sheila's leadership of Government Relations and Brandi's PR achievements, their combined departmental efforts did more to protect our rights as responsible breeders and owners.

Education led by Ashley continues to teach multiple audiences. As you may recall, we charged her department with assisting clubs by educating fanciers on learning how to steward. The first two courses are Conformation based and were finalized after testing on March 1, 2023. The third course covering Obedience and Rally will be rolled out within weeks. These courses are each entirely complimentary to everyone, in another effort to help Clubs.

We have increased our brand exposure on many fronts, including growth in media sales and sponsorships. This of course includes the well-admired ESPN, ESPN 2, and ABC networks. In addition, AKC.tv continues to serve our various constituencies with dog channel, AKC heroes, the most popular breeds series and at live events nationwide. Thanks Gina, Ron and Daphna.

The AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin brought to an end the 2022 competitions. Held in Orlando, it achieved being the largest dog event in North America, with unique entries totaling 9,395, including Performance, Companion and Conformation. We thank our many Delegate volunteers for your very generous display of knowledgeable and inspiring assistance at America's National Championship.

Certainly, there are many more departments contributing to our increasingly broad array of services and offerings. We succeed due to the collaboration of IT/Engineering, Finance, Legal, Support Services, Planning and Business Intelligence as well as the outreach from Inspections, and those doing both, such as Marketing and Customer Service.

Last night the Board and Staff were delighted to have invited you to the AKC Museum of the Dog to enjoy and engage. We last had this opportunity in 2020 and since then 132 new Delegates have been seated. In just three years, that is a 23 percent turnover of this Body.

The AKC Museum of the Dog is your museum, and it should be visited, appreciated and supported as it represents the history of each of our unique breeds in the most positive light.

Once again, the Board and Staff thank everyone for their work on behalf of a year full of increased events, entries, registration and much more.

I thank every department of the Great American Kennel Club for their loyalty to our mission. My appreciation to the Board for their numerous accomplishments in making 2022 memorable.

The Sports & Events Department created a Meet the Breeds in the Field – Pointing Breeds video. This teaches the interdependency of a working breed's form and function. The concept as we know is essential to understanding the value of purebred dogs. Meet the Breeds in the Field provides a message of the obligation responsible breeders and owners have to maintain and enhance understanding of these breeds for the benefit of future generations.

We began 2023 in New York City with the first AKC Meet the Breeds® of the year and our social media experts have put a creative short reel together.
(Video Played.)

On another note, I have had the privilege of attending Delegate meetings since March 1981 when I was seated to represent the Bronx County Kennel Club. As I stand here, after these many years and look around the room, I note a few empty seats – where are some of the regulars? Sadly, a number of our dear friends are no longer with us.

We are fortunate to be dog people, part of a unique blended group, that extends beyond our immediate family and blood relatives.

Each of us chose this lifestyle not wishing to be alone with our dogs but to share the joys of the whelping box – exhibiting and being active in our clubs with like-minded people.

We made it through COVID-19, losing some special people, as we did during the horrific AIDS epidemic in the 1980's and the fright that rippled through each of us on 9/11 when we were together in this very room while our nation was being attacked. With or without a crisis, it's important to continue reaching out – that kind phone call or email whenever we cannot see one another in person to give a supportive hug – just to let friends know we are thinking of them.

Look around, be thankful we have one another. Please continue to help and care for each other.

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

Good morning. It's an honor to follow these gentlemen and the comments they made. I enjoyed attending Meet the Breeds at the Javits Center earlier this year, and it was fun – I highly recommend it. Thank you, Delegates. We appreciate you being here, your time, energy, and dedication.

Today I'll present the key performance indicators of both non-financial and unaudited financial results for the year ending December 31, 2022. It's a high-level overview and has been presented to our Board.

Our litter and dog registration is listed on this chart. Litter registrations total 326,945, similar to 2021. However, it's important to remember that this is the eighth consecutive year of increases in litter registrations. Dog registrations totaled 716,519, which is 11 percent lower than in 2021. The good news is that our online litter and dog registrations exceed 86 percent of our registrations. Our systems are robust, which is a credit to our Staff, our brand, and the presence of AKC. In summary, I thank all of you, our breeders, the AKC Board of Directors, Management, and Staff for this achievement.

Next, we talk about entries. As Dennis mentioned, Events total 25,178, 12 percent higher than in 2021. Entries totaled 3.5 million, 11 percent higher than in 2021. For the entire year of 2022, the 3.5 million entry number was the highest number of events in AKC's history. We look forward to continued success and growth in that area in 2023.

From a financial statement point of view, we will now review the full year 2022 preliminary and unaudited results. 2022 was a financial success for AKC. We saw operating revenues increase to \$106 million, and management maintained control of expenses while ensuring that budgeted programs were completed. Net operating income for the year was \$19.4 million. A combination of the following generated these results: increased registration revenues which, as I mentioned online, is the key driver, and recording and service fees, which increased by 12 percent in 2022.

Operating revenues totaled \$106.7 million for 2022, a ten percent increase over 2021. Registration and events service fees totaled \$73 million or 69 percent of total operating revenue. Advertising sponsorship and royalty revenues total \$19.6 million or 20 percent of the total operating revenue. Finally, product and service sales of \$12.7 million round out the remainder of the revenue streams.

Looking at expenses, a total of \$87.7 million, which is 13 percent higher than 2021, principally due to how we run the programs. Staff expenses are the largest portion of operating expenses and increased along with the additional business activity. This combination raised the overall expense base in 2022. One significant number you see is the support from charitable affiliates CHF, Museum of the Dog and others: this totals four and a half percent of operating revenue. While the slide shows six percent of

expenses, four and a half percent is in line with the Board procedure that says we'll follow operating revenues.

As per our Bylaws, I'm reporting to you that the total cost for the Board of Directors expenses in 2022, is \$345,368.

Next, the AKC balance sheet. This report of total assets is what protects AKC and moves us forward. Total Assets at the end of 2022, were \$244 million, primarily due to positive net operating results. Our 2022 investment performance was negative at 11 percent per year. This is an example of where the AKC investment policy statement, which is Board approved ensures that when the market declines like it did last year, we have investments with some upside protection. The liability section on this balance sheet is principally comprised pension and retirement obligations, and we are in compliance with the lease obligation under accounting requirements.

I want to thank you for your time today. I look forward to answering any questions that you may have at your convenience. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to Chapter 6, Section 2A; Chapter 7, Sections 6, 7, 9, 13 and 17; Chapter 9, Section 10; and Chapter 11, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would be voted as one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

Chapter 6, Section 2A, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries, deletes verbiage eliminating outdated means of production and inserts distribution methods consistent with current technology and practices. It also inserts show secretary as a required contact to be included in notice published in premium lists where applicable. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Lakeshore Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
I'm Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog Show Rules Committee. We have a proposed word change. We would like to amend the language to add "comma, email or in person" at the end of the third sentence.

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

Chapter 7, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Judges, inserts "show secretaries" to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as a show secretary. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

Chapter 7, Section 7, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Judges, inserts "show secretaries" to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as a show secretary. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Neal Goodwin, Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, who spoke as follows:

Neal Goodwin, Delegate for the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America. The last version of the amendment we saw on the Delegate Portal there were three places where it says "his," and only one of them was corrected. I just wanted to make sure that all three were corrected to "his/her."

Mr. Sprung: Yes.

Mr. Goodwin: Thank you.

Chapter 7, Section 9, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*, inserts "Superintendent or Show Secretary" to the list of individuals responsible to ensure notice of a change of judge is posted at an event. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

Chapter 7, Section 13, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*, replaces the word "other" with "another" for clarity. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

Chapter 7, Section 17, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*, which inserts "Superintendent or Show Secretary" to the list of individuals who may be in possession of judge's books. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Lakeshore Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog Show Rules Committee, and we have a proposed word change. We would like to amend the language to add, "no other person" in the beginning of the third sentence.

Mr. Sprung: "No other person" as opposed to "none other." Is that correct?

Ms. Skibinski: Yes.

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

Chapter 9, Section 10, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Superintendents and Show Secretaries*, inserts "show secretaries" to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as show secretary. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

Chapter 11, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which revises and inserts language for clarity about who may make a correction to an entry after closing, and under what conditions. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a vote on the proposed rule changes to Chapter 6, Section 2A; Chapter 7, Sections 6, 7, 9, 13 and 17; Chapter 9, Section 10; and Chapter 11, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* as amended during the meeting.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendments were adopted as amended.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to Chapter 8 and Chapter 10, Section 2, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will be voted as one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

Chapter 8, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Selection of Superintendent, Show Secretary and Veterinarians, replaces “obedience trial or tracking test” with generic “companion event” per the recommendation of the Companion Events Committee. It also inserts content from the deleted Chapter 9, Section 3, addressing the event committee’s responsibility to complete arrangements with a veterinarian to service its show either in attendance or on call. Additionally, it is revised to be consistent with current application procedures which do not ask or require for the name of the Show Veterinarian. Lastly, it relocates content into Chapter 8 which is proposed to be deleted from Chapter 10, Section 2. This amendment was proposed by AKC Staff and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Lakeshore Kennel Club, who spoke as follows: Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog Show Rules Committee, and we have a proposed word change. I would like to amend the language to add the words “publication of a premium list for an,” in the second paragraph. So, it will read “prior to the publication of a premium list for an event.”

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

The Chair recognized Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, Canada del Oro Kennel Club, who spoke as follows: Sophia Kaluzniacki, Delegate for the Canada del Oro Kennel Club. I would just like a clarification of exactly what does on call mean? Does that mean that the dog gets taken to the veterinarian that is on call there, or does it mean that the veterinarian comes out to the show and examines the dog?

Mr. Thomas: Tim Thomas, AKC Staff. Traditionally the role and expectation for an on call veterinarian is where the individual with the dog goes to the facility. The veterinarian is not expected to come to the event.

Dr. Kaluzniacki: That answers my question. Thank you.

There were no further questions or discussion.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

Chapter 10, Section 2, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Show Veterinarians, deletes verbiage related to duty of the club proposed to be inserted into Chapter 8. It also replaces “On call” veterinarian with Show Veterinarian, clarifying that whether in attendance or on call, the Show Veterinarian must be

available to examine dogs during show hours. Lastly, the word “treat” is replaced with “examine” for veterinary procedural purposes. This amendment was proposed by AKC Staff and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Delegate for the Lakeshore Kennel Club who spoke as follows: Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog Show Rules Committee. We have a proposed rule change. We would like to amend the language to add the word “during show hours.”

Mr. Sprung: Okay. Is there a second?

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

There was a vote on the proposed rule changes to Chapter 8 and Chapter 10, Section 2, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* as amended during the meeting.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendments were adopted as amended.

The next vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which inserts “and all other single entry non-regular classes” to expand the classes in which neutered dogs or spayed bitches may be allowed to compete. It maintains the allowance to only be permissible at independent specialties or All-Breed dog shows where there is no competition beyond Best of Breed. It also maintains that to achieve a Conformation title, a neutered or spayed entrant must have first attained its Championship title by competing unaltered in the regular classes. It corresponds to the proposal to Chapter 6, Section 2, which adds verbiage to clarify that information must be included in the premium list if the club elects to permit neutered dogs and spayed bitches to compete in Veterans, or any other single-entry non-regular class. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

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

The next vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries*, which inserts “and/” to reflect the need, when applicable, to list both a superintendent and individual show secretary in the premium list. It also inserts for clarity that notification must be included in the premium list for an independent specialty or All-Breed dog show that does not offer Groups or Best in Show, if the club has elected to allow neutered dogs or spayed bitches to compete in non-regular classes. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

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

The final vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 11**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, which will not allow Local Retriever Field Trials that award championship points to do so during the two National Championship events. This provision does not prohibit clubs from holding derby stakes, qualifying stakes or owner-handler qualifying stakes. This amendment was

proposed by the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

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 the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, **Article VI, Section 6**.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, **Article VI, Section 6**, removes the reference to professional judges (one who charges a fee in excess of expenses) as it relates to Delegate occupational eligibility.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement 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 June 2023 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair introduced Karolynne McAteer, Irish Setter Club of America and Chris Sweetwood, Trap Falls Kennel Club, to provide an update on AKC's PAC.

Ms. McAteer: We are here to speak about the PAC this morning for those of you who didn't get up with your coffee and join us at 7:30 a.m. in the Legislative Caucus meeting. We are going to talk to you about the importance this year versus others. We are often guided by the Farm Bill, and the Farm Bill comes up every five years, and that's when the consistent additional number of things that we would like not to happen starts to happen. That means we are out with legislators and others who influence the rules that come and that costs a bit of money. We're hoping that you will join us today at the government booth and make a lovely donation there, and also to let you know that in June, we will come back with our super-duper raffle. It will be pulled in Orlando. Anyway, think about the PAC, everyone because they are the ones protecting daily the thing that we love.

Mr. Sweetwood: We can't stress it enough; this bill comes up only once every five years. It could be trashed or repeated, and it is extremely important that we do this at this time because whatever happens with this bill will affect us at a major level for the next five years. We really, really need your help. Thank you.

The Chair called on the Chair of the Teller's Committee from KPMG to read the results of the ballot of the Class of 2027.

Mr. Obubah: Good morning. Ernest Obubah from KPMG. I'm here to read the results of ballot one for Class of 2027. The number of ballots cast 256. Number of invalid ballots was 1. The number required to elect is 129. Here are the results: Eduardo Fugiwara, 114; Dr. Charles Garvin, 198; Steven Hamblin, 183; Daniel J. Smyth, 167. Thank you.

The Chair declared that Dan Smyth, Steven Hamblin and Charles Garvin have been duly elected as members of the Class of 2027, as there is no further balloting necessary, we'll continue with the meeting.

The Chair advised the Delegates that the Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. More detailed meeting information will be emailed to the Delegates as soon as available. The Board was instructed to meet immediately following the in the Salem/Warren room.

Lunch was served on the Terrace and the Essex Ballroom. Delegates were reminded to leave their badges at the registration desk following lunch.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Alyson Casper, Delegate for the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) spoke as the Coordinator for the June 2023 edition of the *Perspectives* newsletter themed “Dogs of Summer”. She encouraged the Delegates to submit their ideas, articles and photos by the due date of April 15, 2023.

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Delegate for the St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers, gave kudos to AKC Staff and breed clubs involved in AKC Meet the Breeds®. She congratulated everyone on a fantastic event in January 2023 at the Javits Center, New York City.

Marianne Megna, Delegate for the Staten Island Kennel Club shared some recent statistics about a dog she bred, making North American Fly Ball Dog Association (NAFA) and Vizsla history – being the first to reach the Hobbes Award.

Nancy Fisk, Delegate for the Hockamock Kennel Club and Chair of the Juniors Committee thanked the *AKC Family Dog* magazine Staff for the March/April issue dedicated to Juniors. She asked the Delegates to promote this issue as it represents the future of the sport.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 10:22 a.m. ET.)

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