

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Delegate Zoom Meeting
June 25, 2020

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET).

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

Ms. DiNardo: Good morning, Delegates, and thank you for attending the Delegates Zoom Session. For your information, the meeting will be recorded. Attendees will not be seen or heard, and therefore, interactive features for attendees have been disabled, and to avoid background noise, everyone has been muted.

Mr. Sprung: Please join us in the playing of the National Anthem.

(National Anthem played.)

Mr. Sprung introduced the Chairman, Dr. Thomas M. Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Executive Secretary, Gina DiNardo; and the Court Reporter, Sharon Pearce.

At the May Board meeting, Chairman Dr. Tom Davies asked the Staff to present technology solutions that would allow AKC to hold virtual meetings in June 2020, in order to update the Delegates on the state of our sports and business. After consulting AKC's not-for-profit Counsel, Staff received and reviewed the guidance from the New York State Attorney General on holding electronic member meetings during the pandemic. The New York State Attorney General recognizes the extenuating circumstances of a pandemic and has laid out best practice guidance for conducting such electronic meetings. Under that directive, Gina and I created a blueprint for virtual delegate meetings. The IT department then sourced technology solutions in full compliance with that plan, using the professional Zoom Webinar platform.

The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting.

Ms. DiNardo: These are Delegates seated since the last meeting:

James F. Barron, Redwood City, CA, to represent Contra Costa Kennel Club

Jane E. Bates, Montgomery, TX, to represent Conroe Kennel Club

Joann B. Beavers, St Michaels, MD, to represent Talbot Kennel Club

Michael Capozzi, Manorville, NY, to represent Riverhead Kennel Club

Stephanie A. Crawford, Binghamton, NY, to represent Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club

Luanne K. Dunham, Newnan, GA, to represent Newnan Kennel Club

Dr. Andrea C. Hesser, DVM, Flower Mound, TX, to represent Mid-Continent Club of Tulsa

Chereen M. Nawrocki, Bangor, PA, to represent English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

Tracy J. Pancost, Louisville, KY, to represent West Highland White Terrier Club of America

Susan Soviero, Little Silver, NJ, to represent Bayshore Companion Dog Club

Mr. Sprung: The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read new Delegate biographies that were submitted in lieu of introductions from the floor.

Ms. DiNardo: I am pleased to introduce the following new Delegates:

James Barron, Redwood City, California

Contra Costa County Kennel Club

James Barron is representing the Contra Costa County Kennel Club from the San Francisco Bay Area. James' breed of choice is the Doberman Pinscher. He purchased his first purebred Doberman Pinscher in 1991 and presently has his 12th, 13th and 14th Doberman Pinschers. From 1991 to the present he has been actively involved in Rescue, Breeding, Conformation, Parent Club and All-Breed Kennel Clubs. James believes there is a serious threat to the rights and privileges of purebred dog enthusiasts. He welcomes and is honored by the opportunity to join his fellow AKC Delegates in the representation, protection and preservation of purebred dogs for future generations. Mr. Barron thanks everyone for their dedication and he looks forward to meeting in person in the near future.

Jane Bates, Montgomery, Texas

Conroe Kennel Club

Jane is the first AKC Delegate for the recent new member club – Conroe Kennel Club in Conroe, Texas. She currently serves as the Show Chairman for Conroe Kennel Club, the Treasurer and Show Chairman for the German Shepherd Dog Club of Houston and is also a member of the Houston Kennel Club and a Co-Vendor Chair for the Houston World Series of Dog Shows. Her primary breeds are German Shepherd Dogs and Belgian Malinois and her primary interest is conformation although some of her GSDs have participated in herding competition. She has also worked in protection sports with her Malinois. She looks forward to learning more about other member clubs and the AKC.

Michael Capozzi, Manorville, New York

Riverhead Kennel Club

Michael is a breeder/owner of Best in Show winning Afghan Hounds. But, 25 years ago he had no idea what an Afghan Hound was, let alone a dog show. That all changed when he met his wife and he has learned a lot since then. He is currently a member of several all-breed clubs and several specialty clubs. Michael is a Board member of the Long Island Kennel Club and the Corresponding Secretary of the Afghan Hound Association of Long Island. He has assisted in the planning and running of many dog shows over the years. With retirement in his near future, Mike will have more time to devote to actively showing and working at the shows to further the sport. He looks forward to representing the Riverhead Kennel Club as their new Delegate.

Stephanie Crawford, Binghamton, New York

Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club

Stephanie represents Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club located in Oneonta, NY. This is a small club with members having various interests in the fancy but primarily focused on bringing more AKC performance sports to the upstate NY area. Stephanie looks forward to sharing the vast experience of the Delegate Body with her club.

Luanne Dunham, Newnan, Georgia

Newnan Kennel Club

Lu Dunham is the new Delegate for the Newnan Kennel Club in Newnan GA. Lu is past President and has been a member of NKC since 2005. Lu is a retired nurse. She became an AKC judge in 2008 and judges Cavaliers, Shelties and Junior Showmanship. Her current breed is Cavaliers but she started out with AKC and Shelties in the 1980's. Lu is also Corresponding Secretary for the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club and a Trustee for the ACKCSC Charitable Trust and has been a member since 2003.

Dr. Andrea Hesser, Flower Mound, Texas

Mid-Continent Club of Tulsa

Dr. Andrea Hesser is the new Delegate from the Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa. Her breed interests are varied, but she is most involved currently with Whippets. Dr. Hesser is a boarded veterinary reproduction specialist who practices primarily on canine patients at a busy general practice. She serves on the board for the American College of Theriogenologists, and also stays involved with local veterinary organizations. Her interests in reproductive medicine stemmed originally from her involvement as a junior handler in AKC sports, especially conformation. Outside of work, she is passionate about conformation and lure coursing with her dogs.

Glen Lajeski, Cloverdale, California

Doberman Pinscher Club of America

Having Min Pins as his family's dogs Glen struck out on his own and transitioned to Great Danes in college. While in college and graduate school he began working for Kitty Kolyer of Kolyer Great Danes on weekends. Kitty introduced Glen to the world of dog shows, leading to his becoming a member of the Professional Handlers Association and handling professionally while also developing a career in the music industry. A career advancement caused a move from New York and the east coast to Hollywood which necessitated a shift from handling to judging and down-sizing from breeding Great Danes to Standard Poodles. Currently he judges breeds in the Toy, Working and Non-Sporting groups as well as Junior Handling. Glen actively breeds and shows Dobermans and Poodles, having co-sponsored the #1 Dog News Non-Sporting dog of 2010 and several top winning Dobermans. In the world of Poodles Glen is partnered with Joseph Vergnetti of Dassin Poodles. He recently retired from Disney as Executive Vice President of Music Creative/ Marketing for the film division, working on all live action, animated, and Pixar films during his tenure. Now he can focus full time on the great sport of dogs.

Jolyne Lea, LA Center, Washington

Vancouver Kennel Club

Jolyne Lea is the new Delegate of the Vancouver Kennel Club in Vancouver Washington. She has been a club member since 2003 and currently is the Treasurer as well as having held several board positions. Jolyne is also a member of the Greater Clark County Kennel Club in Washington and has been a past treasurer and board member for that club. In breed clubs, she is a member of the Kuvasz Club of America and has served as treasurer and show chair of the 2000 National Specialty. She is also a member of the Great Pyrenees Club of America and

served as President and Board member of the regional Columbia Cascade Great Pyrenees Club in southwest Washington.

Chereen Nawrocki, Bangor, Pennsylvania
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

Chereen Nawrocki represents the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, for which she has served on the board previously as a Director and President. In 2008 she was the show chair of their national specialty and was very involved in the 2012 national. Currently she is President of the ECSCA Health & Rescue Organization and is involved in planning for the 2022 ECSCA National. In over 25 years in the breed she has served her local English Cocker clubs in various positions while breeding and showing her English Cockers.

Tracy Pancost, Louisville, Kentucky
West Highland White Terrier Club of America

Tracy Pancost is the new Delegate for the West Highland White Terrier Club of America. She has been involved in Westies since she was five years old. Her passion is showing Westies in the conformation ring. She is extremely involved in her national club including Immediate Past President, current Finance Committee Chair, and current Roving National Chair. In addition, she is also very active in her all breed club, the Louisville Kennel Club and is currently the Vice-President. She is very excited about being a delegate and she looks forward to working with fellow Delegates in order to further this wonderful world of purebred dogs!

Susan Soviero, Little Silver, New Jersey
Bayshore Companion Dog Club

Susan is a retired bank officer and lives in New Jersey with her husband, John. She competes and trains in agility, obedience, rally, fast cat and has certified in therapy. All Susan's dogs have shown in conformation attaining Level Grand Championships. Susan shares her home with two Portuguese Water Dogs which she considers her breed and a Frenchie. Susan is dedicated to the all-round training of the dog for a fulfilling experience between dog and owner as well as to the health of her breed. Susan's club, Bayshore Companion Dog Club is a very active performance club that offers classes and sponsors trials year-round for most of the dog sports. Susan is past President of Bayshore and current Vice President. She also belongs to two breed clubs. Susan looks forward to this experience as a Delegate.

Grace Wilkinson, Barrington, Rhode Island
Rhode Island Kennel Club

Grace Wilkinson has been breeding and showing English Cockers under the Cliffwalk prefix for 15 years. Two of her litters all finished championships, and she recently put her first Grand Championship on a puppy. Her specialty is breeding litters of all boys. Her latest? 8 boys, no girls: a breeder's dream! Grace is also a very active, experienced ring steward who works for many clubs in New England. She frequently mentors upcoming stewards with a hands-off approach, allowing them to find a system that works best for their judges and for them.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. A sincere welcome to each new Delegate. The Chair calls on Dr. Tom Davies for the Chairman's Report.

Dr. Davies: Good morning, everybody. It certainly is the dawn of a new day when our meeting of the AKC Delegate Body takes place over the Internet via Zoom. Although it's a depressing set of circumstances that has brought us together in this way, I'm grateful that we have been able to convene safely and efficiently. I'd like to give a huge thank you to our management and staff for organizing the technology that's made this meeting possible. Most importantly, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for participating with us in this new way today. I'm also grateful to those Delegate Committees who have hosted their meetings virtually as well. Changes like these aren't easy, but we all know that the key to success is often the ability to adapt. We've all been grieving the loss of so many events, which has affected each of us in many different ways. It has deprived us of the joy of participating in our sports. It's meant significant loss of income for clubs, handlers, vendors, judges, and others who have supported our mission through their work. These are indeed very trying times. We will get through this, united as we are, for the sake of our dogs and our sports. As Jack Welch put it, we will "face reality as it is, not as it was or as we wish it to be." Although events have suffered tremendously, it is true that "the show must go on." And it has. Our staff has done incredible work throughout this ordeal, most of it behind the scenes and unsung in order to keep the home fires burning. As people around the country have brought puppies and dogs into their lives at rates we have not seen in quite some time, our registration department has been there to serve and welcome them into our ranks. Breeders who have been fortunate to welcome litters during the pandemic have also benefited from uninterrupted AKC services. Our communications and marketing teams have risen to the occasion in educating the public about responsible dog ownership during challenging times. Public Education has been delivering top-quality webinars for our judges to continue honing their knowledge and skills while everybody is sidelined. Club Development and the Events department have been hard at work during this crisis helping our clubs to manage cancellations and postponements. They have worked with other departments collaboratively, forging a path to normalcy with new procedures for our 26 sports. We have offered Pet Pals, Rally, Trick Dog, Act 1 Agility online and even a virtual dog show, to bring back a taste of what we have been missing for so long. Our staff has been agile and creative, because circumstances have necessitated flexibility. In the words of John F. Kennedy, "We would like to live as we once lived, but history will not permit it." You'll hear more from Dennis about all of these recent achievements and more. I will add that your Board has been very active during this time as well. We have met three times, virtually, appointed three ad hoc committees and elected a new Chief Financial Officer, Ted Phillips. Our thoughts have been with you and your club members every step of the way. Before I turn the virtual podium over to Dennis, I would like to say, speaking for the Board of Directors, we do have reason to have hope for better days ahead. These are unprecedented times. There is a sea change going on in our country right now, and some would say we are at a turning point in history. I will leave you with a thought from someone who lived under unimaginable circumstances and had much to teach the generations that followed, and that was Anne Frank: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Let's keep working together constructively. We'll get through this, and we'll meet again, with our dogs by our sides. Thank you very much and thank you for your time. Be safe.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Tom. The Chair calls our Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota, for a report on three new committees.

Mr. Carota: Good morning, fellow Delegates. In an effort to serve the Delegate Body better and provide a high level of transparency, Dr. Tom Davies, Chairman of the Board, appointed three ad hoc committees in the areas of Communications, the Judging Approval Process, and Sample Bylaws. The AKC Chairman of the Board and I, as Vice Chairman, will sit as ex officio members of each Committee. The Board Communications Committee will consist of Karolynne McAteer, Ann Wallin and Steven Hamblin. The goals for communications committee are to institute a protocol for Board communication to the Delegate Body and the fancy in general in an appropriate and timely manner, and in particular, to avoid haphazard and inaccurate dissemination of such information. It will also communicate in an open and transparent fashion, so that the entire AKC constituency has the same information, at the same time, and in a reliable and easily understandable format. Additionally, the AKC Board of Directors has appointed two committees to study and make recommendations. The Committees are: The Committee to address the Judging Approval process. This is a reconstitution of the previous committee. It will monitor and review the Board's current policy on judging approval and determine where modification may be warranted. The committee will consist of Red Tatro, Tim Thomas, Bob Ennis from American Dog Show Judges, and Sam McDonald from Dog Judges Association of America. The Committee to address the AKC Sample Bylaws for Clubs. This committee will examine and make recommendations to modernize the current AKC "Sample Constitution and Bylaws" document and the process for making changes to a Club's existing document. The committee will consist of Lisa Cecin, AKC Director of Club Relations (Chair), Rita Biddle, Carl Holder, Gretchen Bernardi, and Heather McManus. Our goal with these committees is to continue to move AKC forward with thoughtful leadership and combined experience from the Board, AKC Staff and our constituency. Each committee will help improve and grow the AKC. We are here to serve you and better our cherished sports. Thank you and stay well. I look forward to when we can all be together again. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Dominic. Next on the agenda is the President's Report.

An eternity in our life of dogs has gone by since we last met at the annual meeting just 111 days ago. Under the direction of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Board met three times rather than twice. Within days of the Delegate meeting on March 10th, it became obvious that our sports and corporate life must change. Clubs were postponing or cancelling events not of their choosing but because of federal and state mandates. Our clubs want to hold their events encompassing 26 enjoyable sports; however, state fairgrounds, county parks, et cetera are closed to us. Both the Event Programs and Club Development areas, aided by numerous other employees in Events, assist clubs daily. As the pandemic increased, so did cancellations. We are at over 11,370, equaling 50 percent of our annual total. From early March, inspectors could not attend to their kennel visits and representatives in the field for our multiple sports had no events to attend.

I made several decisions for the short- and long-term future of AKC, many painful, some heartbreaking, while simultaneously bearing in mind that I am responsible to keep each department open to serve you, our diverse core constituency. This was with the support of the Executive Committee. We closed the North Carolina office on March 13th except for approximately 25 staff performing essential duties daily. We waited until April and laid off personnel who could not do their jobs due to cancellations, travel restrictions, or a reduction in certain work areas. The New York office closed on March 18th. Both offices are open. As

COVID-19's devastating effects took over our nation and the economy collapsed, management reviewed every department's goals and expectations, researching opportunities for new or enhanced revenue and simultaneously looking at each line item for cost containment. My initial approach as reported to the Board on April 6th was to manage the corporation without a loss over the following four months, although there was some doubt that possibility could be achieved with declines being apparent everywhere businesses turned. Nevertheless, a dedicated and creative Executive Committee and Management group is accomplishing that. On April 3rd, I began a call to action for daily management meetings to ensure cross-department communication, collaboration, and leadership so that efforts of government relations, branding, public relations, advertising, and sponsorships were maintained. During this time, we also dedicated ourselves to the success of new initiatives, such as Virtual Rally, Trick Dog videos, Virtual Pup Pals, as well as Puppy Visor, Virtual Act 1 Agility, Conformation and last week launched Virtual Water Dog. AKC.org and social media visits grew as did Judges' Education with 60 breed webinars and 17,653 live attendees. Marketplace is up. Registration saw significant increases across each offering – the best in decades. Management has met each day except when the Board was in session and once out of respect for Easter Sunday. These daily meetings have taught us that the first seven days of the week are always the hardest. I must publicly thank Gina, Mark, Doug, Keith, LB, Tim, Torraine, Ron, Seth, Peter, and our new CFO, Ted Phillips, Chairman Tom Davies, Vice Chair Dominic Palleschi Carota, as well as an engaged Board of Directors and Chairman Emeritus. Delegates, please remember we are here to assist each of you and your clubs. We understand this difficult and frustrating time everyone is experiencing. Now more than ever, dog people must be united. We have a shared responsibility to be protective of one another, our lifestyles and beloved dogs. Be sure to tell your membership that Staff in each and every department are available for them. In the midst of uncertainty, be certain our enjoyable events will once again be held. Thank you.

It is my pleasure to introduce Theodore Phillips, who began as our CFO last month. He is a seasoned CPA with 32 years of experience and possesses significant background in Technology and Cyber Security for not-for-profit organizations. Ted will present the Financial Report.

Mr. Phillips: Thank you, Dennis, and good morning to all Delegates. I'm very pleased to be part of the American Kennel Club. This morning, I'm also pleased to present to you a revised and refreshed report for key financial reports. You'll see key performance indicators and financial results as we go through this presentation. For the five months ended May 31, 2020, we're pleased to present very positive news about our litter and dog registrations. This slide provides a monthly view of litter registrations for the five months ended May 31, 2020, with comparisons to the same period in 2019. As you can see, litter registrations totaled almost 115,000, which is seven percent higher than the same period in 2019. Notably, the month of May 2020, litter registrations were five percent better than the prior year. And our registration staff reports this was the best May since 2009. Turning to our dog registration statistics, please note that year to date registrations totaled over 291,000, which is 12 percent higher than the same period in 2019. Like our litter registrations, May 2020 was an outstanding month and the best since 2007. We thank our breeders, the entire delegate body, the Board of Directors,

management, and staff for this achievement. As we have all experienced, 2020 has been a year on hold. AKC is not immune and has felt the impact of cancelled events and fewer entries. As of May 31, 2020, year to date, entries and events were lower than the same period in the prior year by 49 percent and 55 percent respectively. We are hopeful that each day in 2020 as we go forward, we will see a return to many wonderful AKC sanctioned, licensed, and member events that are our hallmark. Next, we will review the financial operating results for revenues, expenses, and net operating income as of May 31, 2020, comparing these results to the same period in 2019. The columns presented here are three data points. We have revenues in blue, expenses in gray, and net operating income in green. When comparing the year to date results at the end of May 2020, we see total revenues are five percent higher, reflecting increases across all revenue lines except events. Total expenses are 1.4 percent lower as a result of the cost containment measures implemented by management. As you heard from Dennis, these were implemented due to the pandemic, as we expected lower levels of business activity and anticipated the need for a lower operating cost structure. Finally, the green columns on this slide report net operating income as of May 31, 2020, of 4.6 million as compared to 2.6 million in 2019. On the next two slides, we will dive into the various revenue and expense lines that contributed to these variances. Our revenue lines present the total change in revenue by category. The columns in blue are increases in revenue and the orange column represents a decrease. As I said earlier, we are pleased to report that the total revenues from registrations of litters, dogs, pedigrees, and other enrollment fees total \$2.5 million higher than the same period in 2019 with dog registrations leading this group at 1.5 million. Additional revenue increases totaling 1.5 million come from admissions to events like Meet the Breeds that occurred at the Javits Center in New York in January of 2020 and merchandise sales both from e-commerce and traditional fulfillment methods. As mentioned earlier, when reporting on events, year-to-date revenues as of May 31, 2020, are lower than the same period for 2019 by \$2.3 million. And again, this is due to cancellations. The expense slide presents variances compared the five months ended 2020 against 2019. And again, for orientation, blue columns are areas where we spent more in the period ending May 31, 2020, than we did in the prior period of 2019. We see that the total of travel, marketing, professional fees, and staff costs are lower than the prior year by 1.4 million. Areas where we reported expenses greater than 2019 are grants to our affiliates and others. For 2020, the majority of the increases are grants to the Museum of the Dog. Fulfillment increased slightly due to increased registrations, but overall, on a comparative period basis, we spent less on operations in the five months ended May 31, 2020, than we did in 2019. For the investment's performance and analysis slide, we begin with some brief comments from our investment advisor. The month of May saw a slow and gradual reopening of many parts of the U.S. and global economies. Markets rallied on optimistic economic recovery news as well as promising headlines related to a shortened timeline for COVID-19 vaccine. What I'd like to present here are two charts. One is a pie chart, which shows the asset allocation of investments, and a chart with performance data for the current period extending to one and three-year trailing 12 months. The pie chart shows that AKC's investments are broadly diversified to manage market risk, and the other chart presents the investment performance for the five months ended May 31, 2020, reporting that the portfolio performance was a loss of 3.3 percent versus the benchmark, also a loss of 3.57. So, we outperformed the benchmark by 27 basis points. And given this type of market, this is pretty good performance. Finally, we present

the balance sheet. Notable changes between the period ended May 31, 2020, and 2019 are on the line's investments and debt and capital leases. The overall decrease in 2020 is due to relieving debt in a period when investment values were much higher due to financial markets functioning in a pre-COVID-19 condition. I want to thank you for your time today. We appreciate your dedication to the AKC and look forward to serving you. I'm available to answer any questions at your convenience. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Ted. Per the email notification on April 7, 2020, of the official cancellation of the June 9, 2020, Delegate Meeting, there will be no voting at this Zoom Meeting.

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to please read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 3, Section 3** – Dog Classifications.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 3 – Dog Show Classifications, inserts the proposed new Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class into the list of regular classes. It also adds the language to clarify the puppy class may be divided. This proposal is contingent on delegate approval of the new Chapter 3, Section 8A, to create the Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class. Rejection of the proposed Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class would require amendment to this proposal.

This amendment was inadvertently omitted from the March 2020 Delegate Meeting.

The amendment was proposed and brought forward with approval from 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 next meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates were asked to email amendment questions prior to this meeting. There were none for this amendment.

The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 2, Section 10** – Making Application to Hold a Dog Show.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 2, Section 10** – Making Application to Hold a Dog Show, generalizes the language of the section by removing the reference to a form and deleting the phrase whether the futurity or sweepstakes will be open to nonmembers. The amendment also provides flexibility so that any future modification to the application procedures will not require further amendment to the rule.

This amendment was proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee brought forward with approval from 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 next meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates were asked to email amendment questions prior to this meeting. There were none for this amendment.

The Chair now calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 6* – Championships.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 6* – Championships, assigns the same logic to Grand Championship points as Championship points at independent specialties with inter-variety competition as defined in Chapter 16, Section 3. It also inserts language into the section explaining that at an independent specialty show for breeds divided into recognized varieties and offering a Best of Breed competition, the dog awarded Best of Breed would receive the highest number of Grand Championship points awarded in any variety at the specialty show. The dog awarded Best of Opposite Sex would receive the highest number of Grand Championship points awarded in its sex in any variety at the specialty show.

This amendment was proposed by AKC Staff, endorsed by the Dog Show Rules Committee, and brought forward with approval from 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 next meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates were asked to email amendment questions prior to this meeting. There were none for this amendment.

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

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

All-Breed Clubs Committee: 3 three-year terms and 1 one-year term.

Bylaws Committee: 4 three-year terms and 1 two-year term.

Canine Health Committee: 4 three-years terms.

Companion Events Committee: 3 three-year terms and 1 one-year term.

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee: 3 three-year terms.

Dog Show Rules Committee: 3 three-year terms.

Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee: 4 three-year terms.

Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Committee: 4 three-year terms and 1 two-year term.

Parent Clubs Committee: 3 three-year terms and 1 two-year term.

Perspectives Editorial Staff: 6 two-year terms.

Mr. Sprung: Delegates will be emailed self-nomination forms by the week of July 6th. This self-nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by August 3rd. Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be directed to our Executive Secretary. Delegates may self-nominate for one committee, except that a member of the *Perspectives* Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee. In August, the Delegates will be emailed the nominees for each committee and their qualification statements.

Due to the continuing global pandemic, details on the September 15, 2020 Delegate Meeting will be provided to you after the July Board of Directors Meeting.

Delegates were given the opportunity to submit questions prior to this Zoom Meeting. We received a question from Lorraine Ebdon, Delegate from Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association.

The question reads: "Will the AKC have a policy concerning COVID-19 and require the wearing of masks for judges/exhibitors, or will they defer to the state requirements? If so, would a face shield instead of a mask be acceptable?"

The Chair calls on Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports & Events to respond to this inquiry.

Mr. Ljungren: Since the local situation varies across the nation, AKC's policy is that club-holding events must be in compliance with local guidelines. In addition, clubs may at their option require all participants to wear a face covering. This must be clearly communicated in the premium and signage at the event. Unless specified otherwise by government ordinances, face shields are an acceptable alternative to a mask.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Doug.

There being no further business to come before the Delegate Meeting, on behalf of your Board of Directors and Staff, wishing you the best of health – and also to your loved ones and families and dogs, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you and be well.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Time noted: 11:41 a.m.)