

**AMERICAN KENNEL
CLUB
Delegates Zoom Meeting
December 2, 2020**

The Delegate Forum topic was “Q&A for Board of Director Candidates,” moderated by Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary.

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) at the conclusion of the Delegate Forum.
(National Anthem played.)

Gina M. DiNardo explained the Zoom Webinar functionality for the meeting as follows: I wanted to give you a little bit more information about the features of this meeting. We will be using select interactive tools. *Raise Your Hand* function. *Raise Your Hand* indicates that you wish to speak. You will be acknowledged in the order that your hands are raised. You will be asked to unmute when it's time for you to speak. Keep your hand raised until called upon or lower your hand, if you decide not to speak. *Polls* are launched live to conduct votes for new member clubs and amendments. The *Poll* will appear on your screen when it's time for you to vote. *Q & A* is only to be used for issues regarding Parliamentary procedure, such as to second a motion. If any Delegate has technical issues during the meeting, please call the Zoom Tech Support line at 919-816-3320. I will repeat that, 919-816-3320.

Mr. Sprung introduced Chairman, Dr. Thomas M. Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Executive Secretary, Gina DiNardo; Professional Registered Parliamentarian, Joan Corbisiero and Estamarie Castelli-Velez, the Court Reporter.

The Executive Secretary read the report on the Nominating Committee and the report on additional nominations as follows:

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the nominating committee: Ms. Nancy Fisk, Chair, Hockamock Kennel Club; Ms. Viola Burgos, Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club; Mr. Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara, Fort Lauderdale Dog Club; Mr. Doug Johnson, Colorado Springs Kennel Club; Mr. Harold Miller, American Foxhound Club. Alternates: Ms. Marge B. Calltharp, Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America; Ms. Melanie Steele, Abilene Kennel Club, appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2020 meeting, has nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 9, 2021.

There are four vacancies for the Class of 2025:

Rita J. Biddle, Esq., Ingham County Kennel Club; Dominic Palleschi Carota, Pharaoh Hound Club of America; Dr. Thomas M. Davies, Springfield Kennel Club; Thomas Powers, Kennel Club of Beverly Hills.

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegates have 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 2025, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 9, 2021:

Patricia M. Cruz, Heart of the Plains Kennel Club; Dr. Gregory J. Paveza, Elm City Kennel Club.

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws state that no nominations may be made from the floor. Therefore, nominations closed on November 15, 2020. In accordance with the Delegate Standing Rules, each candidate is allowed 3 minutes to address the Delegate body. The class of 2025 candidates, their speeches have been prerecorded and will be played consecutively in alphabetical order. No questions from the floor will be entertained. The first candidate for the Class of 2025 is Rita J. Biddle, Esq., Ingham County Kennel Club. The second candidate is Dominic Palleschi Carota, Pharaoh Hound Club of America. The third candidate is Patricia M. Cruz, Heart of the Plains Kennel Club. The fourth candidate is Dr. Thomas M. Davies, Springfield Kennel Club. The fifth candidate is Dr. Gregory J. Paveza, Elm City Kennel Club. The sixth and final candidate for the Class of 2025 is Thomas Powers, Kennel Club of Beverly Hills.

(Board Candidate video played.)

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

Ms. DiNardo: These are the delegates seated since our last meeting

Claudia L. Burk, Bakersfield, CA, to represent Kern County Kennel Club

Rhonda Dalton, Monmouth Junction, NJ, to represent Great Pyrenees Club of America

Carey Fayram, Gilroy, CA, to represent Del Monte Kennel Club

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Stokesdale, NC, to represent St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association

Heidi Henningson, Springfield, NE, to represent American Chesapeake Club

Michael L. Moscovitz, New Haven, CT, to represent Shoreline Retriever Club

Link Newcomb, Santa Ana, CA, to represent Bulldog Club of America

Jack E. Sappenfield II, Durham, NC, to represent Durham Kennel Club

Bettina Sterling, Glen Mills, PA, to represent Penn Treaty Kennel Club

Sherri Swabb, Sugarcreek Township, **OH**, to represent Dayton Dog Training Club

Linda Wozniak, Chapel Hill, NC, to represent Bayou Kennel Club

Laurie Zembrzuski, Leesburg, VA, to represent Bedlington Terrier Club of America

The following new Delegate introductions were given by the Executive Secretary, in lieu of those from the floor:

Claudia Burk, Bakersfield, California, representing Kern County Kennel Club

Claudia and her husband have Harriers and German Wirehaired Pointers. As a retired Special Education teacher, she spends her time with her grandchildren and her dogs. As an AKC instructor for the CGC program, she uses it to augment the 4-H dog project that she has been involved with for more than 40 years. Currently she serves as the County Chairman for it. Her training classes are held with no fees and include 4-H, FFA and other junior handlers. The students compete in AKC performance classes as well as Conformation and Juniors. She is proud of their many achievements that include qualifying for and competing in Breed and Juniors at Westminster.

Heidi Henningson, Springfield, Nebraska, representing American Chesapeake Club

Heidi Henningson began in the Sport of Dogs at thirteen in the venues of Obedience and Junior Showmanship. As an Elementary School Principal, Heidi recognized the positive affect of having a "Reading" dog in her building. One of her own Chesapeake's served as a

classroom reading tutor, the first of many dogs to follow in the district. Her passion for her breed has continued throughout her life. Currently she runs and judges AKC Hunt Tests and Field Trials and competes in Conformation, Dock Diving, and the Obedience ring. Heidi presently is the Director of Rescue for the American Chesapeake Club as well as a Regional Director, and past Board Member. Heidi is Secretary for the Nebraska Dog and Hunt Club, a member of the Missouri Valley Hunt Club, and the Metro Alliance Retriever Club.

Michael L. Moscowitz, New Haven, Connecticut, representing Shoreline Retriever Club

Michael is an Attorney by profession. He is a member, President and now Delegate of Shoreline Retriever Club in Connecticut. For 20 years, he has primarily run Retriever Field Trials and also Retriever Hunt Tests. His breed to run has always been Chesapeake Bay Retrievers of which he presently runs two. Michael is a Field Trial Judge for Open Stake, Amateur Stake, Derby and qualifying events. He is very interested in the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee.

Link Newcomb, Santa Ana, California, representing Bulldog Club of America

Link may not seem new because he has been the Delegate for the Pacific Coast Bulldog Club since 2001. To ensure you have your "Newcombs" straight, Link assumes the role of Delegate from his father Bob Newcomb who served as BCA's delegate from 2006 to 2020. Link was raised with Bulldog puppies and now is a BCA Hall of Fame breeder in his own right and is approved to Judge Bulldogs and French Bulldogs. He is the immediate past President of BCA. He is also an officer of the Sand to Sea Nonsporting Association and is the Show Chair for the club's Non-Sporting Dog Spectacular in Desert Hot Springs, California in January 2021 (2 group shows with 14 breed specialties). Link wanted to make sure to let the many friends of his father's know that "my Dad is in great health and is just as capable and as ornery as ever and by his own proclamation still gets a little wiser every year." At 85, he decided it was time to retire all that wisdom and let his son make his own mistakes.

Jack E. Sappenfield II, Durham, North Carolina, representing Durham Kennel Club

Jack has been a member of the Durham Kennel Club since 1996 and has served as a Board Member and President of the club. He has had Weimaraners since 1980 and also Vizslas since 1998. He participates in Conformation, Obedience, Hunting Tests, Tracking and other Companion Events. He is a Tracking Judge, Judges 4 – 6 month puppies, the FSS, teaches puppy kindergarten at Durham Kennel Club, and is the President of the Tarheel Weimaraner Club.

Bettina (Tina) Sterling, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, representing Penn Treaty Kennel Club

Tina has been involved in purebred dogs since 1975 – first in performance events with her American Cocker Spaniels, then in Conformation for 33 years with Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and 30 years with English Toy Spaniels as a breeder, owner, handler. She is the current President of the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club and on the Board of the ACKCSC Charitable Trust and Health Chairman. Tina is a founding member and Secretary of the Cavalier King Charles Club of Delaware Valley. She is also Secretary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, on the Board of Penn Treaty Kennel Club and now serves as their Delegate. In her professional life, Tina was a Medical Administrator and an OB-GYN nurse. Currently, she is Vice President of her family's construction company.

Sherri Wilmoth Swabb, Sugarcreek Township, Ohio, representing Dayton Dog Training Club

Sherri Wilmoth Swabb is the new Delegate for the Dayton Dog Training Club (DDTC) in Moraine, Ohio. Mrs. Swabb has been involved with purebred dogs since 1985 when she

became a member of DDTC. She breeds Belgian Sheepdogs under the Sarron kennel name and has produced many champions and performance titled dogs. Professionally, she is the Marketing Director for Yaskawa Motoman Robotics. She is currently a member in good standing of the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America and is an active AKC Breeder of Merit. She participates in Conformation and the National Owner Handler Series as well as Obedience, Rally and FastCat with her dogs. She is looking forward to learning from, and contributing to the AKC Delegate body.

The minutes of the September 15, 2020 Delegate Meeting were published in the online October 2020 AKC *Gazette* and a full transcript was posted on the Delegate's Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

Arrowhead Kennel Club was duly elected as a member of The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Davies presented the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good afternoon. The holiday season is now upon us and yet very little about our lives today is as it once was. This is indeed a time of reflection about the things that we are thankful for; peace, goodwill toward one another, and hopes for what the future may bring. Yet the challenges of the pandemic are still bearing down upon us. In these times, we in the sport of dogs can say with certainty, to paraphrase Roger Caras, dogs are our whole lives and they make our lives whole. Nothing has stopped us from living our "dog lives" to the fullest under the circumstances, even when so many AKC events had to be canceled.

In just a few days, we will achieve something truly incredible, the twentieth anniversary of the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. I am indebted to our amazing Staff and everyone who will be joining us in Orlando. Mounting an event of that scale and importance is never easy and the challenges of doing so under the current conditions are significant. Thank you, Dennis, for explaining shortly how we will execute this monumental event safely and successfully.

Certainly, for many of us, the annual trip to Orlando or even the option to set foot inside a local show ring or handling class does not figure into our reality. The American Kennel Club knows this well. We know how much our dog sports mean to us. We, like you, know that dogs are adaptable and so are dog people. After all, as has been said – "Nothing in life is constant except change." In response to the crisis the pandemic has wrought, multiple departments in both offices have worked collaboratively to help our constituents continue to engage in our sports in new ways. After all, an old proverb tells us, "A wise person adapts himself to circumstances as water shapes itself to the vessel that contains it." And in a more modern sense, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

I want to tell you about all the different flavors of lemonade we have brewed, some we've built as a taste test and others are so good we're making them a permanent part of the menu.

We launched the AKC Trick Dog program and thousands of dogs are earning titles at three levels by training at home and submitting videos to AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluators. This year, we hosted the second annual AKC Trick Dog competition, a fully virtual event that showcases incredible skills that dogs and people master together. In October, we launched the Virtual Home Manners titling program to help people begin their dog training journey by building a foundation for AKC STAR Puppy, Canine Good Citizen, and AKC Companion events. In less than one month, more than 400 titles have been issued and a full marketing plan set to roll out

to teach more people at home how to achieve great things with their dogs.

We have held three virtual competitions in conformation over the summer which have been a fun and unique experiment in hands-off breed presentation and judging. Certainly, no replacement for the real thing, these programs have helped us donate more than \$17,000 to not-for-profit organizations including Take The Lead, AKC Reunite, Adopt-A-K9-Cop (to which AKC Reunite has also made a matching gift) and to the California Fire Foundation.

Companion events went deeper to bring virtual opportunities to our constituents. Virtual Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Agility ACT 1, and Agility ACT 2 classes replicate the traditional exercises and courses but allow participants to enact them in their home environments through video. These classes have achieved more than 14,000 entries since launching in late spring and early summer. Importantly, more than half of the entries represent dogs who have never earned an AKC title of any kind. Therefore, the introduction of virtual titles has proven to be an effective customer acquisition tool and hopefully a launching pad for further participation in more AKC sports. Feedback from exhibitors has been so encouraging we are adding these virtual opportunities as permanent options. One constituent wrote to thank AKC for their innovations and said that she sees virtual classes as gateways to more AKC activities. Another wrote that virtual titles have given her a reason to continue to train and keep a positive attitude during these "extremely challenging times." Introducing AKC training programs to online exhibitors brought about a powerful example of how our sports can change lives. A story about a vulnerable foster child earning Intermediate Trick titles and working towards her Agility ACT 1, became the focus of a powerful and emotion story in AKC Family Dog Magazine. During this difficult time, virtual programs have earned a place in AKC's toolkit as a bridge to things we know will come.

We have certainly used this time to harness the power of technology for another valuable purpose: educating our fancy and the public. It has been said that "education is our passport to the future" and that "tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." Surely 2020 has been that time of preparation, digging deeper and honing our skills. It's been truly inspiring to see how so many departments within AKC – including Sports and Events, Government Relations, Club Development, Breeder Development, Public Education – and many others have partnered to deliver high quality programming for our constituents who are eager to enhance and expand their knowledge. In the earliest days of the pandemic, staff began presenting breed webinars virtually. More than 82 breeds have been studied in this fashion to a cumulative audience of more than 24,000 live attendees. Expanding the scope to include Judges Institutes, canine legislation, stewarding tips, and training during COVID (to name a few topics), we can count on more than 31,000 of our family who have joined us in broadening our horizons through virtual education. These programs will continue into 2021. I urge everyone to take advantage of these opportunities by visiting AKC.org's educational web page – located at [AKC.org/public-education](https://www.akc.org/public-education)

How gratifying it is to know that we, as an organization, are enacting and achieving our mission to advance the sport and serve the interest of purebred dog owners even in the most difficult of circumstances. Whether it's to sharpen or diversify one's skills, try a new sport, or simply connect with fanciers one might never otherwise meet. Thousands of people are finding joy and value in AKC's new virtual programs. I urge you to you join them, spread the word, share your ideas and feedback.

May the new year bring us changes for a better tomorrow, a return to our show sites, the club events we so desperately miss, and days of chasing dreams with our dogs at our sides. Happy

holidays and thank you.

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

My congratulations to each Delegate for your dedication and perseverance to dogs, clubs, and the American Kennel Club during this COVID-19 crisis. Not since World War II 75 years ago has the dog world been so negatively affected, yet our community moves forward. We have a shared responsibility to one another which we are living up to. With thoughtful planning by clubs, boots on the ground of expert field staff, constructive guidance by our Events Department, and leadership from Delegates, numerous clubs have held safe events. During the same time, well over 14,000 have been cancelled or postponed, many due to Federal, State, or local mandates, certainly not of their choosing. Again, each of you is to be praised for the successes.

Collectively we are learning how to hold show-and-go style events with proper social distancing, masks, and good common sense by dedicated dog people. I have the same responsibility as a number of you, being a Show Chair. Out of loyalty to our community, Orlando is well planned with layers of safety and social distancing measures in place. Similar to most initiatives at the Great American Kennel Club, this is a multi-departmental joint venture. It will be different than the prior 19 years. Masks are required – zero tolerance; show-and-go; no seating during the day or evening; no standing dryers. This year will be without Meet the Breeds®, spectators, or even a Judges dinner.

To serve our constituency and the worldwide fancy in watching their breeds, we will be streaming in real time every entry both days. Profits from this will be donated equally to Take The Lead, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Humane Fund, AKC Reunite and the Museum of the Dog. The National Championship Groups and Best in Show, Best Bred-by Exhibitor and Groups, NOHS, Puppy and Junior Stakes, Junior Showmanship Finals, Obedience, Rally and Agility will continue to be live streamed on AKC.tv complimentary and remain available on demand. Additionally, ESPN 3 will also stream the evening Groups and Best in Show. Entries at America's National Championship include Agility with 608, Rally 411, Obedience 124, Fast Cat 116, and Diving Dogs 494. In the Conformation area, we have 4,006 entries, Best Bred-by 769. There are 931 in Stakes, NOHS has 609 entries, and in our combined sports there are 190 Junior entries. Special appreciation for this to Michael, Gina, Mari-Beth, Carrie, Pam, as well as Jason Taylor of Royal Canin. In total, 8,257 entries will grace our rings.

I am thrilled to share this information for the first time. We have expanded our brand relationship with ESPN, the leader in sports television. A key element of this venture is the National Championship which will air on ABC Sunday, January 17, 2021 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. eastern time. Also, AKC Fastest Dog USA competition will air on ESPN 2 Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. It will also be available on the ESPN app. Building on the success from the collaborations on ESPN Dog Day and ESPN Championship Pup, we will produce championships and competitions for the network through 2023. Each will give audiences insight into the passion, fun, and intensely competitive world of dog sports. These include AKC Fastest Dog USA; America's National Championship; the Agility Premiere Cup; National Agility Championship; the Diving Dog Premiere Cup; and the North American Flyball Association CanAm Classic

On behalf of the Board, thank you to the talented Staff who once again managed the Delegate Committees and today's meeting -- Paula, Tim, Amy, Keith, Bob, Wlad, and the many other dedicated members of our Staff.

Chief Financial Officer, Ted Phillips, gave the Financial Report as follows:

To our Delegates, thank you for attending today's meeting. We always appreciate your time and your support. Today, I'm presenting key performance indicators and financial results for the 10

months ended October 31, 2020 with comparison to the same period in 2019. When relevant, we will include references to the 2020 budget. So, let's begin with some non-financial KPIs because they're important to tell the story of the October 31, 2020 results. This slide shows a monthly view of litter registrations for the 10 months ending October 31, 2020 with a comparison for the same period in 2019. As you can see, litter registrations are almost 235,000 or 9.4 percent higher than the same period in 2019. Turning to our dog registrations, please note that the year-to-date registrations total almost 587,500, which is approximately 18 percent higher than the same period in 2019. Our registration staff reports that litter registrations were 18 percent better than budget and 20 percent better than October of 2019. This was our best October for dogs since 2007 and the best October for litters since 2008. Additionally, certificate transfers beat budget by 11 percent and surpassed the prior by 21 percent. DNA samples received during the month of October were 24 percent higher than last year. This is an outstanding achievement and we thank our breeders, the entire Delegate body, our Board of Directors, management, and Staff for this achievement.

On the next slide we show events and entries which continue to record lower activities in 2020 year-to-date as of October 31, 2020 versus 2019, by 48 percent and 54 percent respectively. We heard some good news as events come back and we're always pleased when we hear clubs hold these events and we obviously look forward to better times in 2021.

Next we'll review the financial operating results for the ten months ended October 31, 2020 comparing these results to budget in the same period in 2019. As a result of management cost containment efforts, net operating income year-to-date as of October 31, 2020 is \$11.5 million. These results continue to be generated by a combination of increased registration revenues led by online registrations, pedigree, and other litter fees, title recognition, and other enrollment fees, as well as product and service sales combined with lower expenses across the organization. We've included the 2020 budget data for comparison to highlight the cost containment efforts introduced in April by the management team. Here are some key points before we look at individual revenue and expense lines. Year-to-date revenues are comparable to the 2020 budget due to the offset of increased registration and related registration fees and related revenues as compared to decline in recording and service fees. While changes to revenue are important and have pointed that the AKC registration services were well positioned for a year like 2020, the overall driver of positive results is expense control. Please note the total expenses are 15.5 percent lower than budget and 6.8 percent lower than the prior year. We will all experience unique changes in the US economy as the results of this pandemic continue to sort out, but I have to say AKC's expense review, and cost containment measures, and good registration results position us well for 2021.

In the next few slides, we'll look at the individual revenue expense line that supports these results. This slide presents AKC's significant revenue lines with a stacked comparison of year-to-date actual budget and prior year in each column. Total year-to-date revenues from registrations are 18.3 percent or \$4.9 million higher than the prior year. This is led by dog registrations of 4.3 million. The next column presents summarized pedigree and other program fees. The combination of revenue lines here is 16 percent higher than the same period in 2019. Next, we report revenue events, recording service, and other fees which is lower by almost 42 percent for \$4.9 million when compared to the same period in 2019. Product and service sales lines are 24 percent or \$1.9 million higher than 2019 which is led principally by merchandise sales and admission fees. As I said in previous presentations, I just want to remind, commission fees are from the Meet the Breeds® event at the Javits Center in January of 2020 and also product sales come from both e-commerce and traditional order fulfillment.

This slide shows controllable expenses. These are the ones management has the most ability to interact with in its budget plan and during the year. Overall, total expenses are reduced or down 16 percent versus budget in 2020 and lower by 10 percent versus 2019. Self-containment measures lower each of these expense lines except for fulfillment costs and grants to other organizations. Fulfillment costs are expenses that support product and service sales. Since that revenue increased, as we noted earlier, this expense line has also increased. The two activities are correlated. Grants follow the 2020 budget as we continue to support the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the Museum of the Dog. One other item of note, that in this year, this election year, our Government Relations Staff has continued their work in support of legislation promoting the mission of AKC. Now, individual lines where we can look at for cost containment measures focus on the following: Travel, which has been reduced by 65 percent or \$1.5 million, promotion and public relations 42 percent or \$542,000, service and professional fees 12 percent or \$953,000, and staff costs reduced by 12 percent or \$3.3 million. Investment performance is purported on this slide and we show the bar graph as a way to look at the year-to-date one in three-year trailing performance numbers. I show the pie chart which demonstrates how AKC's investments are broadly diversified to manage market risk fluctuation. Good news: Investment performance as of October 31st is positive, up 2.1 percent. This may sound like a very low number but the balance index was negative by 1.3 percent. So, overall, the portfolio beat its benchmarks by 3.4 percent. This outstanding performance is a result of our asset allocation strategy focused on a broad-based U.S. and international equity investment which totals 62 percent of our portfolio. Fixed income investments, which have had a difficult year, make up 23 percent of our portfolio as well as a smaller portion of about 15 percent of private equity assets. Overall, this is excellent performance in a very volatile and uncertain financial market.

Our next slide presents our balance sheet or what I and others refers to as the fortress of AKC. This presents the financial position as of October 31, 2020 with comparison to the same period 2019. Total assets are at \$137 million which is lower than the prior year. And while it's lower, it actually speaks to a very good financial position. Notable changes shall reduce investments, and debt, and capital obligations both decreased due to management's decision to relieve outstanding debt from the build out of the New York office space and the Museum of the Dog. This was done at a time when investment values were at their highs in 2019. So, this particular report, a balance sheet, shows that the overall condition of AKC is healthy due to a combination of the cost containment measures, positive performance at registration, and other revenue generating activities. I'd like to thank you for your time today, appreciate your dedication to the American Kennel Club. I certainly enjoy working here. In my first six months, it's been a wonderful experience and we look forward to serving you. I am available to answer any questions. I've got my email address on there. Feel free to contact me and thank you for your time. And thank you, Dennis.

The first vote was on the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club **Article IV, Section 1**, which would prohibit a local Specialty Club from applying to AKC for Member Club status in accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Parent Club Committee and brought forward by Staff with the approval from the Board of Directors.

There was discussion via Zoom:

Alan Kalter, Delegate for the American Bullmastiff Association spoke as follows:
I think it would be beneficial for the Delegates to have a review of some background on this Bylaws amendment. There are currently 1,852 licensed local breed specialty clubs which hold shows under the auspices of their Parent Club. The only exception to that rule is when a local

breed specialty club is member club. As such, they hold shows under their own authority, independent of the Parent Club. There are currently about 20 local breed specialty clubs that are member clubs with the last one being approved in 1945. The amendment coming before the Delegate body would not impact the status of those member clubs. In 2000, the Board appointed a Bylaws Overhaul Committee whose members included Ron Menaker and David Merriam that recommended a number of changes to the Bylaws to clean up inconsistencies and to bring them into alignment with best current practices. One of the proposed amendments approved by the AKC Board involved Article IV, Section 4, allowing a local specialty club to become a member club. From the Minutes of December 2000, there's Jim Crowley's explanation of the proposed amendment, and I'll quote Jim, "Under the current Bylaws, Article IV, Section 4 provides that a local specialty club may become a member club of the American Kennel Club." For at least the last 50 years, by policy, the Board has not approved that. The deletion of this section would eliminate the possibility of a local specialty club from becoming a member. That was the intent. It's just a straight deletion of the current Section 4, giving a specialty club, other than the Parent Club, the ability to become a member. So, it's really bringing the Bylaws in line with the current policy by deleting this section. Subsequent to Jim's comment, the motion carried and it was believed that this vote by the Delegate body removed the ability of a local breed specialty club from becoming a member club. That belief has resulted in another 20 years making a total of 75 years since the local breed club became a member club. However, as we have seen in many other instances, removing something from one section of the Bylaws doesn't always completely fulfill the will of the Delegate body. It was thus in this instance also which brings us to this amendment today. Its passage will fully clean up the Bylaws on this issue as was meant to be done in 2000. Thank you.

Anne Gallant, Delegate for the Nashville Kennel Club spoke as follows:

I'm concerned that the multi-breed club is ambiguous verbiage, and I would like to move that multi-breed be deleted and the words Group Club, be inserted in place of multi-breed.

Ms. Gallant's motion was acknowledged and seconded.

There was further discussion via Zoom:

Mr. Sprung: Should it not read All-Breed Clubs, Group Clubs or Associations allowing All-Breed Clubs to become members.

Ms. DiNardo: Mr. President, in the original amendment multi-breed would've covered both Group and All-Breed Clubs. Now, if you change the wording to group, the Delegate body may want to consider also All-Breed.

Mr. Sprung: I am not speaking for the Delegate body, but I am sure the body does not want to exclude All-Breed Clubs.

Ms. Gallant: Correct. Absolutely. So, we can include All-Breed Clubs.

The motion was changed to include All-Breed Clubs, Group Clubs or Associations which was seconded.

Luis Sosa, Delegate for the Louisiana Kennel Club made a motion to call the question which was seconded.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative to call the question.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll on the amendment to the amendment; it passed by majority.

There was further discussion via Zoom:

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America spoke as follows:

I want to speak to the board's recent vote to approve a Bylaws amendment to formalize preventing a local specialty club from obtaining membership status. I speak on this because the club that initiated this process is, in fact, the Leonberger Specialty Club. As the Leonberger Delegate and member of the Delegate Parent Club Committee, which also, by the way, voted unanimously to support this amendment. My issue was allowing a local specialty club full member status boils down to one word, and that's divisiveness. The traditional role of the parent club by its representing a breed's best interest in all matters involving AKC allowing a local specialty club to directly become part of that discussion promotes the possibility that the parent club and one or more specialty clubs may not see eye to eye on issues being presented to the Delegate body. While the results of such a situation may never be seen by the AKC, the downstream effects of these disagreement can form a divisiveness between the national club and its local affiliates. The unintended consequence of which would drive a dangerous wedge these factions that run the risk of disrupting what is, in my opinion, and outstanding AKC Parent Club. Unintended consequences are often the most easily overlooked. In this case, they should not be. For these reasons, the Delegate body needs to affirm the vote of both the Board of Directors and parent club committee to vote yes for this proposed Bylaws amendment. On a personal note, I hope you all have a great and safe holiday. I miss seeing every one of you. Thank you.

Wendy Jones, Delegate for the Lake Champlain Retriever Club spoke as follows:

There is an unfortunate consequence to the amendment to the amendment which means that a club like the Lake Champlain Retriever Club, which is neither an All-Breed club nor a Group Club would not be able to be accepted to the AKC under these changes.

Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate for the Redwood Empire Kennel Club made a motion to call the question which was seconded.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative to call the question.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll on the original amendment as amended; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club **Article VIII, Section 7**, which would eliminate costly balloting for unopposed Board candidates during the annual election. It would also save the time that it normally takes during the Annual meeting to conduct such elections. This amendment was proposed by the Beaumont Kennel Club and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The third vote was on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 1 – Championships*, which incorporates a new paragraph 8 to permit a 2020 National Specialty to be held in 2021 in addition to a 2021 National Specialty. This amendment was proposed by Staff and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was discussion via Zoom:

Ann Lettis, Delegate for Grand River Kennel Club spoke as follows:

My concern for this is that this amendment will make such an exception. We're all very well aware of unforeseen disaster that can occur. Rather than indicating specific years to which the above amendment applies because no one knows when a similar situation may arise, I'm proposing an amendment to this amendment. We don't know what's going to happen five years from now, ten years from now. Will there always have to be another vote, another amendment made? So, I'm proposing this amendment. *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships* which incorporates a new paragraph 8. In the event of a disaster which would prevent a National Specialty from being held, after review, the AKC may grant permission for that specific year's National Specialty to be held at the following year's National Specialty that will take place. End of that amendment. I wanted to say the reason why I worded it like that was we don't know how long it might be before another National Specialty could be held. For example, we don't even know next year if all the National Specialties can be held. So, this is why I worded it – to be held at the following year's National Specialty that will take place. In other words, if it takes place in two years, yes, they could be combined, but it eliminates specific dates. It covers anything that can happen even ten years from now. Anyhow, that's it.

Mr. Sprung: That is appreciated, it's related, however it is not germane to this amendment as it is not within the scope of the notice given to the Delegates. Is there any further discussion?

There was continued discussion via Zoom:

Frances Stephens, Delegate for Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers spoke as follows:

I'm a member of the Saint Bernard Club of America and we appreciate very much that the Board put forth this amendment. We were unable to hold our National but the hotel was willing to adjust the date without losing our deposit which is very important to us. We are just very supportive of this and I wanted to make sure everyone knows that. Thank you.

Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate for the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Kennel Club spoke as follows: I have a parliamentary inquiry. While in favor of this amendment, the dates also concern me because in 2022, are we going to have to delete this paragraph because it will become null and void because it's talking about 2020 and 2021 specifically?

Mr. Sprung: The Parliamentarian is advising me that after 2021, this will be deleted because it has expired.

Ms. Arrowwood: So, it would be automatically be deleted?

Mr. Sprung: Correct, it will self-eliminate on December 31, 2021.

Anne Hier, Delegate for the Companion Dog Training Club of Flint, Michigan spoke as follows:

I'm in favor of this as written. I think it has to be done as case by case. I have to declare my bias because I was supposed to judge at the 2020 National this year and this is a big boom for us. I'd

like to know specifically how many National Specialties or a percentage that were already canceled this year.

Mr. Slay: Alan Slay, AKC Director, Event Programs reported that the number was 97 National Specialties canceled in 2020.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The fourth vote is on *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* **Chapter 14, new Section 36** – Rules for Pointing Breeds Trials, which provides those Parent Clubs that were forced to cancel or postpone their 2020 National Field Trial due to COVID-19, an exception to hold their 2020 and 2021 National Field Trial Championship in 2021. This amendment was proposed by Staff and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote is on *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels* **Chapter 15, new Section 27** – Rules for Spaniel Trials, which provides those Parent Clubs that were forced to cancel or postpone their 2020 National Field Trial due to COVID-19, an exception to hold their 2020 and 2021 National Field Trial Championship in 2021. This amendment was proposed by Staff and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The sixth vote is on *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures* **Chapter 9, Section 1** – Description of Classes and Championship Requirements, which provides clubs with the option when applying to hold a traditional brace trial, the ability to offer two classes and avoid having to combine classes later during the trial due to lower entries. This amendment was proposed by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The last vote is on *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Basset Hounds* **Chapter 3, Section 1** – Making Application to Hold a Field Trial, which increases the maximum number of trials a club can hold from 2 to 4. This amendment was proposed by the Basset Hound Club of America and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

Voting was conducted by Zoom poll; the results were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 6, Section 2** – Premium Lists and Closing Entries.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 6, Section 2 – Premium Lists and Closing Entries*, which modifies required publication components of premium lists including address information and entry fee(s). The section is also reformatted into a bulleted list for easier understanding, made gender neutral and the veterinary reference updated for consistency. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate 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 March 2021 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

Mr. Sprung called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club who spoke about AKC PAC initiatives as follows:

The PAC appreciates all the donations it's received for this year and we would like to give you little brief that we had almost a 90% success rate with the candidates that we supported in the recent election. That is a phenomenal number for a PAC this size, an AKC PAC. If you have not given your yearly donation, I encourage you to go to AKCPAC@akc.org. The other thing we'd like to do today – and we would've loved to have been able to do this in person – is to present a Resolution honoring Dr. Carmen Battaglia and his service to the American Kennel Club and Political Action Committee. I would like to read it. I will state that the plan is to present to Carmen in person at the December meeting of the Atlanta Kennel Club, so I'm looking forward to being able to do that.

Whereas such Carmen Battaglia joined the Board of Directors and the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee, AKC PAC, in January 2017 and served through March 2020 and

whereas such Carmen Battaglia first joined the AKC Delegate body in 1990 as Delegate of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and appointed to the American Kennel Club Board of Directors in 1994 serving until March 2019; and

whereas such Dr. Carmen Battaglia has been active in the American Kennel Club for many years as a breeder, owner, exhibitor, and judge of German Shepherd dogs; and

whereas Dr. Carmen Battaglia is an internationally recognized expert in a number of canine related areas including working dogs breeding and judging; and

whereas such Carmen Battaglia's leadership, knowledge, and experience in matters purebred dogs and puppy policy have been on great value to the AKC PAC Board.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Directors of the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee honor Dr. Carmen Battaglia's service, leadership, and dedication to the American Kennel Club and its Political Action Committee and extend to him their grateful appreciation and most sincere, best wishes for his future endeavors.

I appreciate all that Carmen has done and his support at AKC PAC over the years and I hope that in the future we will be able to all be together. Happy Holidays and Happy Hanukkah. Thank you.

The Chair called on Emily Brostek, AKC Museum of the Dog Manager of Educational Programs, to share Museum of the Dog fundraising efforts as follows:

I'm here today to speak on behalf of the Museum and our upcoming virtual night at the Museum honoring Ron Menaker on February 12, 2021. The Museum is celebrating the tradition of the benefit with this virtual event to honor Ron's dedication to the Museum demonstrating the progress Museum of the Dog has made through this move to New York City and support future programming and exhibitions in years to come. Our event will feature live and prerecorded segments highlighting programming and exhibitions at the Museum, testimonials on the Museum of the Dog impacts on our neighbors, and interviews depicting the value of Ron's leadership that has brought us to where we are now. Through this visual, you can see our live stream will allow you to view our video feed while browsing silent auction items, viewing sponsors, and donating to the event all at once. How can you get involved? I come today to speak to you about the champions for our cause campaign designed with you, our club, in mind. Champions for our cause is a competition open to clubs encouraging giving together as a team. What can you do? Register your club as a team by contacting me directly. My information will be provided after this presentation. Encourage members of your club, friends, family, and fellow dog lovers alike to donate through your team and watch your fundraising totals grow. With a personal fundraising link for your club, it is quick and easy to share and encourage others participate. Support your team leading up to the live event on February 12, 2021 where a winner will be announced for all of our participants and be featured on AKC.tv. The highest total amongst club teams will earn a recognition on our AKC Club Wall of Fame. This is dedicated space at the Museum will feature a plaque with your club's name on it to honor your legacy and support of the Museum. A prominent place in our first-floor gallery, your club will have visibility from visitors from all over the world. Does your club already have a plaque? We thank you for your support. If you're a fundraising team with the highest total raised, we will increase the size of your existing plaque to a larger level in honor of your continued efforts supporting the work of the Museum. This sample represents what your page could look like if your club chooses to register as champions for our cause. With your registration, you will have a dedicated donation page for members, friends, and family to donate in honor of your club. It has never been easier to secure your club's legacy at the Museum than with this public campaign, easy to navigate, and shareable throughout your network. Your campaign page can be personalized to show your club name, logo, and even link to your website. Your club will be prominently featured for its support throughout the live event and on our giving center website where the event will take place. When you choose to register, all of these personalized assets will be managed by myself to make things even easier for your members. To register, please reach out by the contact information provided. The sooner you register as a champion, the longer you have to fundraise on the Museum's behalf and make your way to the top. We are grateful to all of the clubs who choose to participate and look forward to honoring our top dog donor on our AKC Club Wall of Fame. I thank you all for your time.

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 with the election for the Class of 2025 Board of Directors. More detailed information will be emailed to the Delegate Body at a later date.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Connie Butherus, Delegate for the Afghan Hound Club of America presented Dennis Sprung with a lifetime membership to the AHCA. Since 1992, the Board of Directors of the AHCA awarded lifetime memberships in the club to members who have made significant contributions and support in the preservation and protection of the breed as well as supporting and upholding the mission of the Parent Club. Dennis is among 16 other current members of the club who have received this award.

Mr. Sprung expressed his passion for the Afghan Hound breed that has been in his life from 1968 and thanked the AHCA for the honor.

Pat Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America shared the AKC Reunite program's success. According to President & CEO Tom Sharp, the 91st trailer was delivered to Mission Viejo, California. The Idaho trailer is to follow. AKC disaster relief trailers have been used in recent months in eight emergency situations. AKC Reunite has also made 31 emergency grants for a total of over \$75,000 in 2020. In 2020, emergency trailer deployments were as follows: Arizona Humane Society, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Animal Control in Colorado, Riverside County Department of Animal Services in California, County of San Diego Department of Animal Services in California, Josephine County Animal Protection and Regulation in Oregon, Jackson County Animal Services in Oregon, Clark County Animal Protection and Control in Washington, Yuba County Office of Emergency Services in California. We are so proud that AKC Reunite has been able to help with the trailer program in areas that had extreme problems. 434 clubs have participated. \$1,659,517.72 has been received in donations. \$650,000 has been funded by AKC Reunite. The total funds raised \$2,309,517.72.

Cindy Miller, Delegate for the Waterloo Kennel Club, Chair of the Dog Show Rules Committee and the Coordinating Committee recommended that the Delegate Google Group e-list could be used for Delegates to discuss amendment changes online ahead of the meeting to avoid confusion. She suggested that when a motion to call the question is made, it would be beneficial to know how many Delegates had the intention of speaking, in an effort to hear all opinions within a reasonable timeframe.

Claudia Grunstra-Pierro, Delegate for the Yorkshire Terrier Club of America was contacted by her Parent Club for assistance with the AKC Marketplace website. Advertisers have been checking off that they are members of the Parent Club. And, in fact, some of them stating so is false. This requires constant monitoring by our people to get in touch with the AKC and to have those names of advertisers removed. Since the AKC gets a list of club members each year, we were wondering if there was something that the technical department can do when they take advertisements from people to verify if in fact that they are a member of the Parent Club and make it easier for us to have truthful advertising shown on the AKC Marketplace.

Mr. Sprung advised that Staff would look into the suggestion, noting that club member lists would need to be updated by each Parent Club several times per year to ensure the website was current.

Ann Lettis, Delegate for the Grand River Kennel Club explained that not all Delegates have the time or ability to access the Delegate Google Group e-list. She asked for consideration of different lifestyles and circumstances for Delegate contributions.

Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate for the Redwood Empire Kennel Club wished everyone a sparkle hat Merry Christmas.

Pat Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America commended AKC Staff for the organized efforts to support the Delegates, dogs and breeders during this difficult year.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(Time noted: 2:38 p.m.)

Delegates inadvertently omitted from speaking during New Business were as follows:

Betty Winthers, Delegate for the Olympic Kennel Club

In spite of COVID-19, the Olympic Kennel Club in conjunction with the Walla Walla Kennel Club held a 5-day All-Breed dog show on September 23 - 27, 2020. OKC awarded Chris Lyden, Show Chair the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship award for his leadership working hard to put on the cluster. They are now planning the 2021 event.

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