



January 17th 2005 American Kennel Club Quarterly Delegates Meeting

The 2004 Fourth Quarter AKC Delegates Meeting was held on Monday, January 17, 2005 (as permitted by the last by-laws change) at the Hyatt Hotel in rainy and cold Tampa, Florida. It was reasonably well attended, as the meeting followed the Eukanuba National Championship dog show, held Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday, the AKC provided a choice of three sessions for the Delegate body in which they presented their Strategic Planning Initiative. These presentations were well attended and well received. The process and a brief overview of selected content were presented. An outside consulting group has been engaged to facilitate this process. An in-depth survey has since been sent to each Delegate and to each member club for our input, suggestions and opinions.

When Committee meetings are held on Monday and the AKC Delegate meeting on Tues, it has been my habit to study each agenda, and then attend as many meetings as possible that I feel are of particular interest. I then attend my own Herding Earthdog Coursing Committee meeting which usually convenes later in the afternoon. As mentioned above, for this one time only, the Eukanuba Championship dog show was extended to two days, while the Delegate's meeting time was shortened to one day. All Committee meetings began in the AM, and the Delegate caucus was cancelled. All of the meetings were at the same time, making it impossible to attend or participate in any this quarter. We also gave up our usual Tuesday morning Forum.

I learned from those in the Parent Club Committee that there was a discussion of a by-law change proposed by the by-laws committee, putting the nominating committee back in the hands of the delegate body. The committee would self-nominate, within certain guidelines. Additionally, all nominees for the board, including those from the floor, would be in place before our winter meeting, to allow for more discussion and communication with our clubs. This to be voted upon at the March meeting.

Also from the Parent Club came the information that an offer from AKC-CAR to provide chips and scanners at reduced rates for microchipping clinics at National Specialties. At present the rates are @25 for the first 25 chips, and then \$20 for anything over that, including registration. This is quit a savings, and could be a fundraiser for Parent Clubs.

The Delegates meeting was called to order at 1 PM, following an 11:30 lunch. The first major item on the agenda was the Chairman's Report, in which Mr. Menaker outlined the significant achievements of the AKC in 2004. As many reports of organizations, it began with a financial report, which was quite favorable. AKC with the guidance of Mr. Menaker is doing exceptionally well financially. The AKC showed a healthy profit this year, enabling them to provide veterinary scholarships, a substantial endowment grant to the Canine Health Foundation, a grant to the Museum of the Dog, and a major Challenge Grant to the CHF. The health and well being of our canine friends will be enhanced by the hiring of Dr. Elaine Ostrander as a consultant in all matters pertaining to DNA. None of the above would have been possible without the improved financial picture. I have personally attended quite informative symposiums and talks given by Dr Ostrander, and believe the AKC is lucky to have engaged her expertise.

In his President's report, Dennis Sprung thanked each and everyone for their support and efforts in behalf of the National Championship.

The only item to be voted on was the name change of the Strategic Planning Committee to the Delegates Advocacy and Advancement Committee. This passed.

Community Achievement Awards went to Wallawalla Kennel Club and Whidby Island Kennel Club, and especially to Diane Albers, who received a standing ovation for her heroic efforts as president of the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs. She coordinated the massive rescue and recovery before, during and after the Florida hurricanes. The thrust of her report was that there was water, water everywhere but

not a drop to drink, and until water was provided by relief organizations, some animals had no fresh water for as much as eight days. Diane stressed the importance of establishing an association of kennel clubs in each state, and having every one of them develop a disaster and emergency plan, as disasters, both natural and manmade can occur anywhere.

In response to some Delegates comments during the open discussion period, it was announced that there will be a series of advertisements in print and on television stressing the value of an AKC registration and the superiority of AKC registered dogs.

There was a letter read protesting the recertification requirement for CGC examiners, as this creates a hardship for some sponsoring clubs.

Three items were read that are to be voted on at the March meeting. They include the establishment of an Amateur Field Championship for English Setters, changing the requirement for a written, signed ballot from 50% of the delegates present to 25%, and the previously mentioned change allowing the delegate body instead of the Board to select the Nominating Committee.

In addition, the March meeting is the Annual Meeting, at which election to the Board of Directors, Class of 2009 will take place. There are four openings, and so far there are nine candidates. The slate from the Nominating Committee includes Charlie Garvin, David Keenan, Judy Daniels, and Dr. Anthony DiNardo. There are three current Board members running from the floor: Steve Gladstone, Pat Scully, and David Merriam. Also running from the floor are Gerry Meisels and Carl Ashby. Since nominations don't close for another two weeks, there may yet be more candidates.

If anyone has opinions about the matters up for votes in March, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Staudt-Cartabona BCOA/AKC Delegate