



AKC DELEGATE REPORT

Prudence G. Hlatky
May 2020 BCOA Board Meeting

The Delegate Meeting is a two-day event, with the first day the eight Delegate Committee Meetings, and the second day the actual AKC Delegate voting meeting. As the second day, the AKC Delegate Meeting, is reported in its entirety in the AKC Gazette, unless the BCOA Board has requested my input/vote or if something of member importance is discussed in the Delegate Meeting, I will primarily report on the Delegate Committee Meetings.

I've also passed on several health related AKC/Delegate notices to Nancy Hopkins, the BCOA Health Chair and other reports of note to Joy Windle, BCOA Recording Secretary, to share with the BCOA Membership.

Our Borzoi family partakes in a lot of different dog related activities. To cover all in my report would require pages. Please take a minute, or more, to read the AKC Gazette Secretary Pages, the AKC Board of Director's reports and the Delegate's Meeting Reports. If you have a concern, please contact your Regional Governor for it to be brought before the BCOA Board for action.

The March AKC Delegate meeting is the election to the AKC Board of Directors. The BCOA Board directed me to vote for the following candidates for the class of 2024: Jeffery Ball, Michael Knight, and Karolynne McAteer. Michael Knight and Karolynn McAteer were elected. The other candidate elected to the AKC Board was Carmen Battaglia.

The other item of interest of BCOA members is amendment to *Chapter 11, Section 8-A of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. Please read the entire proposed change in the AKC Gazette Delegate Meeting Report. Prior to the AKC meeting this change was the subject of much discussion in the Parent Club and All-Breed club meetings. Basically, if it passed a dog could now be DQ without the requirement for an injury occurring to a person or other dog. The Bench Show committee doesn't need to call for witness or hold a hearing. Based on their subjective opinion a dog could be DQ'd.

It would allow for the DQ for any dog that is considered a hazard to persons or other dogs. This could include a reactionary move by a dog that has responded to an aggressive move by another dog. Think of the times that you've seen or have experience another dog, improperly controlled, does something to another dog and that dog has spun to see what is behind them. If the first act is not witnessed, then the spinning dog can be DQ'd. This could also apply when a person has intentionally interfered with a dog. The dog reacts and the person calls for a Bench Show Hearing. At its extreme it could also apply to sparing terriers.

When it was brought up for a vote at the AKC meeting, it was defeated as presented and sent back to committee. The committee can decide to revise it, to be voted on at the next Delegate meeting, or withdraw it completely.

These are the eight Delegate Committees and the schedule is set up so that you can attend two meetings: All-Breed Clubs Committee, By-Laws Committee, Canine Health Committee, Companion Events Committee, Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, Dog Show Rules Committee, Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee, Herding, Earthdog, Coursing Events Committee, Parent Clubs Committee. Concluding the day's committee meetings, is the Coordinating Committee meeting where all eight committees give a report on their committee's activities that day.

I attended the All-Breed Clubs, the Parent Clubs and the Coordinating Committee Meetings. If you need more detailed information, if I attended the meeting or if the committee published minutes, I'll be happy to share.

Parent Clubs and All-Breed Clubs Committees, items of note:

Discussion of At-Risk individuals: It's becoming more of an issue with the aging population and those with stretched resources. This problem relates to dog owners who are having trouble caring for their dogs, which can put animals at risk, and often allows those with an Animal Rights agenda an opportunity to pounce. The committee's goal is to develop guidelines for clubs to identify and assist members in their clubs and within the breed's community who are having trouble taking care of their dogs. The hope is to offer a positive outreach and assistance to "at risk" individuals. This issue was discussed in both the All-Breed and Parent Club meetings. I responded to their survey about what our club was doing to help our at-risk members. The committee will develop and report a "Best Practices for Clubs".

Juniors Subcommittee: Recommended the creation of a Jr's Facebook Page, if the club doesn't already have one. Jrs can communicate with each other and also get input from knowledgeable breeders and handlers. Also include Jrs in non-regular programs such as rally, trick dog, CGC, obedience and even stewarding. And most importantly encouraging Jrs to learn about animal husbandry and breeding.

Legislative Committee: Asks the fancy to be active in responding to legislative issues in your area that are detrimental to our ability to own dogs, participate in dog activities or how we are allowed to keep our dogs. Let your legislators know how you feel. Get out, meet with them and take a dog along with you. Current hot issues: Dock and Crop, tether laws, temperature restrictions laws to preventing the keeping of dogs in outside kennels, regardless of breed; laws which prevent a dog's abilities to fulfil the purpose of the breed. Currently there's approximately 2,300 bills at the State, Federal and local level are being voted on. Most are "feel good" AR proposed legislation.

Breeders Committee: The Parent Club has created a new committee to develop best practices for the support of dog breeders. Recommends that Parent Clubs capture the experience of old-time breeders, and work with their members to develop a group of senior breeders who can offer new breeders' practical advice. Clubs should increase member/breeder educational programs. The AKC through, AKC.org, is a resource for expert advice on dog breeding. Most importantly develop a library of knowledge from successful old-time breeders.

Upcoming Items: Specialty clubs becoming an AKC Member Club. The Parent Club Committee is strongly against Independent Specialty clubs becoming Member Clubs. A breed's parent club is the keeper of the breeds standard, health program, develops the breed's judge mentor program, etc. A Parent club represents the entire Nation. Regional clubs have local issues and are more political. A parent club may represent hundreds or thousands of members. A regional club represents only a handful. If allowed to be an AKC Member Club, the regional club of a few members could negate the vote of the parent club representing the entire nation. Currently Specialty clubs are considered member clubs of the parent club. This proposal is to be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
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