



## **AKC DELEGATE REPORT**

Prudence G. Hlatky

The September 2020 meetings was entirely electronic, through Zoom meetings and other platforms. I attended all committee meetings, except the Field Trial and Hunting Tests committee. In all and including the four-hour Delegate Meeting it took 19 hours of meeting time. Quite the marathon. Usually when the Delegate body meets in person, the timing allows for only three committee meetings, plus the Delegate meeting.

I've listed the General Delegate meeting first then reviewed some of the many actions that came out of the Delegate Committee sessions. At the beginning of each Delegate Meeting is a Forum Presentation. I've shared to presentation and the supporting White Page documents with the BCOA Health Committee. The "Review of the Current State of Genetic Testing – A Living Resource" by Dr. Anita Oberhauer, is one of the more compelling presentations I've seen. If you have misplaced the link please contact Nancy Hopkins, BCOA Health Committee chair for more information.

The minutes from the Delegate's Meeting have been published in the Secretary's page of the AKC Gazette. Please review it for more information. We voted on a lot of rule changes, mainly pertaining to breed measuring, weighing and color determinations. Also voted on were several housekeeping Dog Show Rules verbiage changes.

Of interest to BCOA Members were to amendments that were defeated. Defeated and referred to the Rules Committee of the option of offering a Bred-By Exhibitor Puppy class. Although it was presented as an optional class, the All-Breed clubs had sufficient numbers to barely defeat the proposal. It has been sent to committee for wording that will allow it for specialties. Also defeated was in Dog Show Rules Chp. 11, Sec 8-A the proposal to remove the verbiage that an injury has to occurred for an Event Committee to disqualify a dog that has attached a person or dog at an event, presenting a hazard to dogs or other dogs.

The September General Delegate Meeting Minutes have been published in October AKC Gazette Secretary Page. If you have any questions or comments on the minutes please contact me.

Proposed and being voted on during the December Delegate's Meeting is an Amendment to the AKC Charter and Bylaws that would prohibit a local specialty club from applying for AKC Member Club status.

As I previously noted I attended all but one Delegate committee meeting. I've briefly outlined some of the noteworthy items from a variety of committee meetings. The two committee with the most input are the Parent Clubs Committee and the All-Breed Clubs Committee.

### **Delegate Committee Meetings – items of note**

1. Emphasis on identifying and assisting "At Risk" members – Best practices being developed to assist club members and community dog owners in need. Encourage people to reach out if they need help. At Risk – loss of income, age, illness, more dogs than they can care for. Clubs/members assist before it can become an AR issue.
2. Reviewing policy of AKC owning all rights to filming of AKC events. Later amended to allow for social media usage.
3. COVID-19 Guidelines – make sure everyone at events follow required guidelines. If local Health Department or Gov't agency shows up and guidelines aren't being followed, they can immediately shut down the event.
4. Reminder that the corresponding date calendar will fall back a week next year.

5. The 2020-point schedule will continue through 2021, except in those cases where the point schedule formulation process indicates the number of competitors should be reduced.
6. The NOHS Level of Achievements titles implementation pushed back to 1/1/2021
7. Develop a “Best Practices” for clubs to attract, engage and retain juniors and young adults.
  - Ideas include educational programs, seminar, clinics for our younger members
  - Handling classes at shows (National) for juniors to develop their handling skills
  - Encourage juniors who are aging out to become a Junior’s judge
  - Juniors who have turned 18 on or after March 1, 2020 will be allowed to continue to compete until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday or Dec 31, 2021 whichever comes first.

Regards,  
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## Borzoi Photos Needed and New AKC Programs for Kids

soyara@aol.com - 12/17/19 #5250

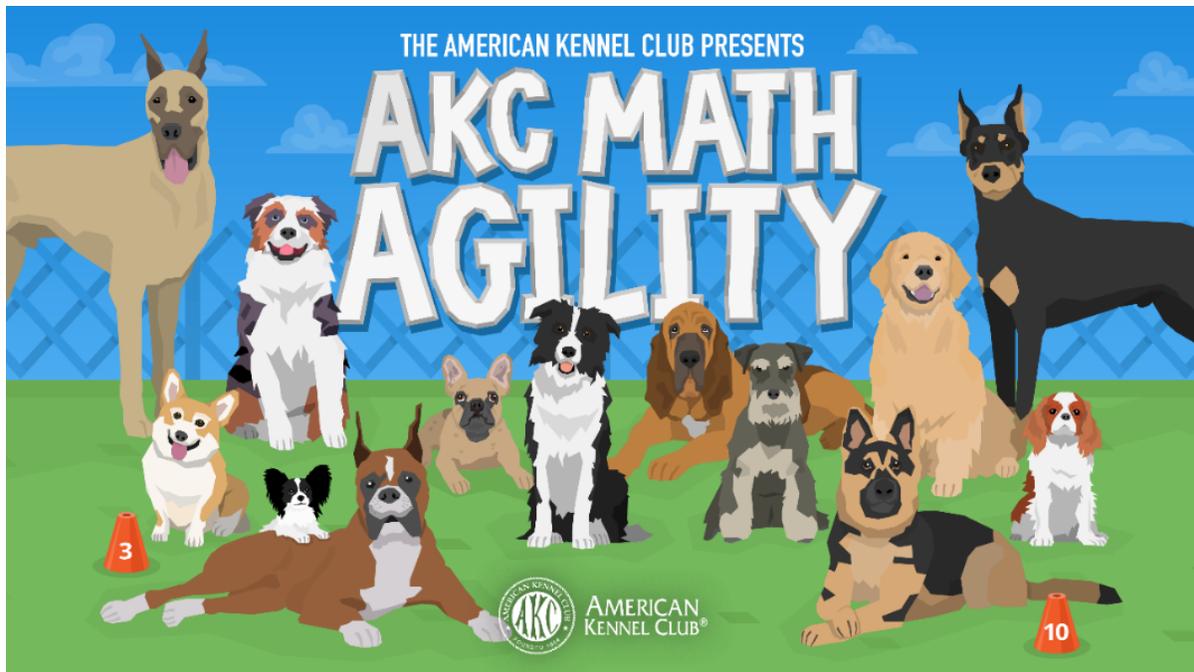
I just returned from the AKC Delegate's meeting and over the next several days I'll be sharing information and news.

Regards,  
Prudence Hlatky  
BCOA AKC Delegate

PupPals - Borzoi photos and pals are needed for youngsters struggling with an illness, the illness or death of a loved one (human or pet) or who are missing a deployed parent or who are otherwise struggling through a difficult time. Photos and interesting information about your Borzoi are needed.

For more information and to sign up go to: <https://www.akc.org/public-education/akc-puppals-program/>

AKC Math Agility Educational App - Ages 5-10, and it combines the dog sport of agility with basic math equations. Children improve their math skills but using simple math, while advancing their dog through agility courses.



The AKC Public Education team is excited to announce the new [AKC Math Agility App](#)! The app was created to provide children, parents and teachers a curriculum-based learning game that also educates about purebred dog breeds. The app is intended for children 5-10 and introduces users to sixty breeds and the sport of agility through the practice of math facts. The app introduces children and parents to the world of dog sports, laying the foundation for a lifelong relationship with the AKC.

Share the excitement with your friends, family and dog community! The app is available for purchase in the Apple App Store and Google Play for \$2.99

## AKC Board of Director Candidates

There are three vacancies for the class of 2024 and one vacancy for the Class of 2021.

For the class of 2024 we can select 3 candidates to vote into office

*(Nominated by Nominating Committee)*

Class of 2021:

Dr. Thomas Davies, Springfield Kennel Club.

Class of 2024: *(Selected by Nominating Committee)*

Jeffrey David Ball, Ramapo Kennel Club;

Dr. Michael Knight, Texas Kennel Club;

Karolynne McAteer, Irish Setter Club of America.

*(By Petition)*

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 2024 to be filled at the next annual meeting of the club on March 10, 2020:

Carl C. Ashby, III, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

### Nominations for AKC Board of Directors

There are three vacancies for the class of 2024 and one vacancy for the Class of 2021.

Class of 2021: Dr. Thomas Davies, Springfield Kennel Club.

Class of 2024:

By Nominating Committee:

Jeffrey David Ball, Ramapo Kennel Club;

Dr. Michael Knight, Texas Kennel Club;

Karolynne McAteer, Irish Setter Club of America.

By Petition

Carl C. Ashby, III, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

### *Candidates address to the Delegate Body*

In accordance with the Delegate Standing Rule, each candidate is allowed three minutes to address the body.

**Dr Davies:** Good morning. The year 2020 is upon us, as amazing as that sounds. With each new year our collective responsibility is to move our sport and our organization forward collaboratively. Let's not forget that we're a community. If we all set out to do everything, we can to achieve our goals, we can make tremendous progress for our purebred dogs. Working together everybody wins and ultimately the dogs win. Our priorities are to increase registrations and entries, grow the number of breeders producing litters, encourage our Juniors, and advance the important work of our clubs. The world is changing, but as dog fans here we must remain true to our core values. The future of our sport depends on our commitment to one another. While on the Board my every intention is to keep all eyes on the prize, a flourishing sport of purebred dogs in America. We need more teamwork and less bureaucracy, more common sense and less complaining, more solutions and more ideas. I have proposed that we conduct a comprehensive study of the issues facing our clubs and our shows. During

my tenure I will take this on and I hope that you will all join me as we seek solutions and remedies. We all have the passion to affect the changes we need. We owe it to our sport and surely to our dogs to try. Thank you.  
Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Tom.

The first candidate for the class of 2024 is **Carl C. Ashby, III**, representing the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club.

**Mr. Ashby:** Good morning. During our brief time together this morning I'd like to share with you the kind of Director I will be. My decisions will be driven by the mission of the American Kennel Club. I would get things done. I would question to gain insight and understanding. I would listen to and respect other points of view. I would be a team player – striving to bring people together to solve problems. I would bring creative thinking and innovative ideas. I would work to make AKC the voice of dogs in America, all dogs, with an increased public relations presence. Most importantly I would value you and your Club's thoughts on issues. I would listen and be accessible. I would seek renewed emphasis on the AKC mission to guide our decisions or directions. My goals would be to increase our visibility engagement with the dog-owning public through registrations, event participation and public outreach to assure our clubs are getting the support they must have as the volunteer backbone of AKC. Make no mistake, I know that policy flexibility is necessary, that some policies are outdated, and that the time for action is now, and to do everything possible to rebuild our legacy event such as Conformation. These are the foundations of our mission and the future of purebred dogs bred to a standard. We must have new approaches to solve old problems. Staying in our "comfort zone" has not moved us forward as many of the old problems remain. We must find solutions that embrace the new reality that surrounds us. During my professional career I was asked to lead organizations facing difficult challenges. I found ways to meet those challenges. The skills I used then would serve you well in the AKC boardroom. I'm not the star at a cocktail party, but that's not where the work gets done. The work gets done in the boardroom, and it gets done in the boardroom and in relationships around it. I build relationships and that is why I have been asked to serve and lead so many community organizations. I hope to talk with many of you in the weeks ahead. If you have a question or concern, please call me. The best candidate information is always from the candidate. If elected I would bring as a past Board Vice Chair a working knowledge of AKC, extensive experience in multiple dog clubs including leading events, successful bottom line business experience, and an unwavering commitment to the mission of AKC. All are required to be an effective AKC Director. Please allow me to serve you and your club with your vote in March. Thank you.  
Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Carl.

The second candidate is **Jeffrey David Ball** representing Ramapo Kennel Club.

**Mr. Ball:** Good morning. Everyone in this room has two things in common: Their love of the dog and a knowledge that the success of the American Kennel Club is vital to the well-being of our dogs. The public feels the same way about one of these items. They love their dogs. In 2000 there were 68 million dogs in America. It has climbed to 84 million in 2018. Approximately 56 percent of the homes have dogs. The public spending on their pets went from 17 billion in 1994 to \$72.5 billion in 2018. These figures should be great news for AKC, but there is problem. We are not growing. Our registrations and show entries are down. Clubs are struggling to recruit members. It seems as if our breeding and show rights are under attack every day. Many companies and organizations struggle. In fact, they project 40 percent of the Fortune 500 companies will not exist in ten years. They will fail for different reasons, but one of the main causes is they fail to change. Society is continuously evolving and therefore forces change. Competition comes in different forms and we need to adapt. A problem we have is there is still a disconnect with the public as well as many of the fancy itself. Either they do not know who AKC is, they have the wrong impression of AKC, or they think of AKC as "them" and not "us". The truth is we are all AKC. To properly correct this problem, we need the help of the clubs. There lies the bigger problem. Clubs are struggling. Without clubs, AKC is just a registry or another business. AKC is a club of clubs first. We need to look at our policies and understand what works for one does not work for everyone. Different size clubs, different regions in the country, there are many variables to consider. We need to learn to be more flexible. My goal would be to help us collectively make a change. First, we need to help our clubs. We cannot build internal support if we have internal struggles. We need to be more accommodating and have a lot more flexibility and give the clubs and fancy ownership of the AKC. Once clubs are stabilized, we can begin to reeducate the public. As the fancy and public realize who we really are we will once again begin to grow. I would love that opportunity to work with all the canine experience and knowledge that we have in this room. We can use creative thinking and innovation to revitalize the clubs and help them assist us in continuing our mission, upholding the integrity of the registry for the purebred dogs and breeding, as well as improve the canine lives as well as the families, and responsible ownership. Thank you.  
Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Jeffrey.

The third candidate is **Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia** representing the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

**Dr. Battaglia:** Good Morning, in the 3 minutes I have, let me begin by saying I have twice been President of both my Parent Club and my local Specialty Club, I am an active member of the Atlanta Kennel Club, a breeder of German Shepherd Dogs, and have finished several himself.

I judge the herding and working Groups, several sporting breeds and remain an active Breeder of Merit. I have authored many books on dogs and published more than 70 articles which have appeared in Veterinary Journals, and in many of the leading dog magazines. I was the Assistant Dean at Emory University and the Regional Administrator for the US Department of Education. I served multiple terms on the AKC Board of Directors, chaired countless committees and was liaison to the: Parent Club, Bylaws, Canine Health, Companion Events, Herding, Earthdog & Coursing Events Delegate Committees. I am a current PAC and Reunite Board member and chair AKC's, Dog Detection Task Force whose mission is to help increase the supply of detection dogs that are needed to protect the country. With that said, my background in business and in the dog world had prepared me for the many projects I would like to finish. For example, I chaired the committee that developed the DNA system we have today and streamlined the requirements for importing dogs. I was on the board when we added the select title in conformation and the 1 + 1 program. I helped improve the obedience point schedule. Achiever dog was a proposal I brought to the Companion Events Committee which generated over 66,000 entries. We have many good things to talk about, the AKC Museum of the Dog is in now in NY and doing well; AKC.TV is growing and beginning to make a difference. These are on some of my accomplishments, but there are other problems facing AKC. Conformation is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of declining entries. Shows, clubs and breeds are suffering. The cluster has become the route for most clubs to survive; 50% of the stud book are now low entry breeds, and only 41% of our pups are being registered. Our clubs are getting smaller and the greying effect is taking its toll. We have come a long way and I would like to work with the board to focus on these compelling problems. I like to think of our problems this way, we have the willingness to fight and the talent to win. I will need your vote in March. I am convinced we can make things better.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Carmen.

The fourth candidate is **Dr. Michael Knight** representing Texas Kennel Club.

**Dr. Knight:** I spent three weeks writing my speech and then I tore it up last night and decided just to talk to you. I am probably the least-known person running for this office and what I've heard is "who is that guy?" So, my name is Michael Knight, I have a Ph.D. in human resources, a degree in banking and finance, a degree in human resources, a degree in psychology, and a master's in psychology. And I was taught to be a fundraiser by my grandmother. That's part of what my family does. I own a staffing firm. I am very familiar with working with a multimillion-dollar budget, I do it every day in charity work and with our company. I cannot tell you who I will be, I can just tell you who I am already. I am the guy who will listen. I am opinionated. I have a point of view. I think we need to make changes now. I think that AKC needs to make some changes, but I think it's already in process. I would like to hurry that along because I think we're running out of time. I think band aids don't work. We need serious changes now. In our local area, in our cluster, and I've said some of this before. If it's a repeat to you, I'm sorry. I took a tour of our junior high schools and we got the principals and the teachers to give us an hour in several of the junior highs. We chose junior high kids because they're not thinking about college yet. Seniors are thinking about college or specialty schools, so we backed up and went to junior high schools to talk about dog shows and being a handler or being a breeder, because juniors haven't made decisions about college yet. They're not thinking about what they want to do with their lives. Their parents quite frankly aren't pushing them yet to make those decisions. I asked the local schools, one in particular which like I mentioned earlier there are 49 junior high schools in Dallas and Fort Worth, to please come to our dog show. We expected a few kids to show up. Three school buses showed up, 96 kids came, they took a tour, they had a great time. We're going to go to the other 49 schools and offer the same thing. And we then had a class on our programs about being a handler. We had 19 children show up with their parents, completely enthusiastic about this might be something my kid would love, even though the children brought the parents. They all left with a lot of knowledge about what AKC is, what AKC could be to them, what our local cluster could do for them. We have grown our show, like I said, to 36 specialties. We help them financially. We take our Purina sponsorship money and sink it into the Specialties because we want to grow the treasuries of the small clubs because without the treasuries they're going to go away anyway. We have helped them with volunteer work. We help find people to help them. We don't care if you're in the club or not, just if you want to volunteer, we will let you help us and we will help you join us. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Michael.

The fifth candidate for the class of 2024 is **Karolynne McAteer** representing the Irish Setter Club of America.

**Ms. McAteer:** I have one piece of paper because I too tore up what I thought I was going to say. I am from the Irish Setter Club of America and I am a 50-year breeder of Irish Setters. I am in conformation, hunting and field trials, and I am also the chairman of a small rural all-breed club, so I think it's safe to say I'm in it with all of you,

and I'm experiencing exactly what you are. I thought it might be more interesting to tell you what I have done in the past four years since I had the honor of your votes to win a board seat. Since I stood before you four years ago and earned your support, I have joined the Board of the AKC CHF with an emphasis on communications. I am a founding member of the AKC.TV with the idea that as we celebrate our second birthday of that wonderful growing entity, we are really starting to reach out to those beyond our own fancy; that is where our growth is going to come and it's where the saving will come of purebred dogs. I serve on the board of the PAC and focus on ways to communicate to the public that we do not want to lose what we love. That includes the dog lying down next to you in front of the hearth, and it includes the one going around a group ring. Our way to communicate is to get to the general public, and that's my personal mission. So that is what I've been focusing on in the four years that I've sat in place. I coordinate the live streaming for this event, so you'll see me on the floors for daytime, and at night I'm hidden in a truck choosing camera shots, so I'm hoping the general public gets to see all that, and I've done that for 15 years for Westminster. I am vice president of Moore County Kennel Club which I told you about when we were all talking, a small club with the same issues all of you are having. However, we have found many ways around those issues and to grow ourselves, and I would look forward to sharing those with the small clubs, in discussion. I ask for your support so I can finish some of what I started and because I do want to be a part of what I see as much needed change, so thank you all.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Karolynne.