

**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
Delegates Meeting  
September 12, 2023**

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. ET.

The first order of business was the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.  
(Voting.)

The meeting recessed for the Delegate Forum. The topic was “The Future of Our Breeds & Our Breeders” – The Parent Clubs’ Breeders Development Subcommittee offers ideas to help breeders succeed in their pursuit of breed preservation.

The Chair called the meeting back in session at 10:30 a.m. ET.

The Chair introduced the persons on the dais: Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Shari Cathey, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of members of the Delegate Body:

Josephine DeMenna passed away on August 23, 2023. She was the Delegate for Progressive Dog Club, 2003 to 2006; Upper Suncoast Dog Training Club from 2007 to 2015; and then back to Progressive since 2015.

David Helming passed away on August 30, 2023. He was the Delegate for Hutchinson Kennel Club from 2006 to 2013 and the Delegate for Newfoundland Club of America since 2013.

Mary Stolz passed away on September 4, 2023. She was the Delegate for the Tampa Bay Kennel Club since 2003.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting.

**Rebecca Barber**, Springfield, MO, to represent Ozarks Kennel Club

**Kristen L. Burgoyne**, Glocester, RI, to represent Providence County Kennel Club

**Kathy L. DelGrande**, Harrisburg, PA, to represent Pacific Coast Bulldog Club

**Dr. Robert Scott Dove, DVM**, Flint Hill, VA, to represent Scottish Deerhound Club of America

**Debbie Hockaday**, Providence Forge, VA, to represent Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia

**Patricia Jason**, Saline, MI, to represent Poodle Club of America

**Ylisa Kunze**, Glen Cove, NY, to represent Ladies’ Kennel Association of America

**Pamela A. Langstein**, Woodmere, NY, to represent Yorkshire Terrier Club of America

**Kate McCallum**, Northville, MI, to represent Alaskan Malamute Club of America

**Sean McCarthy**, New York, NY, to represent Westminster Kennel Club

**David Todd McDonald**, Central City, IA, to represent Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

**Jean Pero**, Lakewood, CO, to represent Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America  
**Nanette J. Prideaux**, Hardwick, MA, to represent Windham County Kennel Club  
**Sheri Wright**, Walsenburg, CO, to represent Southern Colorado Kennel Club  
**Roberto Zorzi**, Snohomish, WA, to represent Sammamish Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting in-person since their approval were introduced from the floor:

**Kristen Burgoyne** to represent Providence County Kennel Club  
**Dr. Robert Scott Dove** to represent Scottish Deerhound Club of America  
**Linda Gagnon** to represent Pioneer Valley Kennel Club  
**Beth Hendrick** to represent English Cocker Spaniel Club of America  
**Debbie Hockaday** to represent Gloucester Kennel of Virginia  
**Patti Jason** to represent Poodle Club of America  
**Ylisa Kunze** to represent Ladies Kennel Association of America  
**Nanette Prideaux** to represent Windham County Kennel Club  
**Sheri Wright** to represent Southern Colorado Kennel Club  
**Roberto Zorzi** to represent Sammamish Kennel Club

The minutes of the June 13, 2023 Delegate Meeting were published in the online July 2023 *AKC Gazette* and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning. Three and a half years ago, we saw the beginning of an unprecedented health emergency that turned our world upside down. Although the pandemic is not totally behind us, life is much improved. The effects of COVID-19 continue to be a point of discussion in the realm of economics, consumer behavior, education, and public health. In the context of the purebred dog fancy and our AKC Sports, the pandemic had a surprising effect in many ways.

We know that dog breeding increased to meet the market demand for puppies while so many people were able to work from home. Prices soared; wait lists grew long. Traffic to AKC.org swelled and AKC Registration rates bumped up.

Today, litter and dog registrations have leveled off – still higher than four years ago, but not as high as in 2021. Last year's litter registrations were stable relative to the prior year, which was a period that represented the highest registrations of litters since 2009. We continue to develop programming and marketing campaigns to keep registration a priority for breeders and new puppy owners.

Even at the height of the pandemic, our AKC event participants still wanted to be able to compete with their dogs, and our clubs did their best to provide opportunities. Many were limited by their local and state provisions, but we all had our dogs' and owners' best interests at heart, whether we stayed home or ventured back into the rings.

Today, we are seeing impressive and encouraging growth in events and entries since 2021. Conformation Events are up almost 20% and entries have grown by approximately 9%. Performance Events have grown 11% and entries are up almost 15%. Companion Events are up more than 10% and entries have grown by more than 11%.

When we look at individual types of events, we see that Rally Events increased more than 16% and entries are up nearly 19%. Fast CAT® continues to boom, with more than 21% growth in events, and nearly 30% growth in entries. Entries in each FAST CAT® Event are also up by 7%. Continuing the tradition of the enthusiastic participation in our new sports, Scent Work Events have increased 17% and entries are up 23%. These sports, while a departure from our foundation, are an excellent base from which to welcome newcomers to the world of AKC.

There is always discussion about the notion that we have too many dog shows. Yes, there are more shows than there have been in the past decade or more, and in fact 2022 had more events of all kinds than any previous year. Contrary to what some may expect, there are also more clubs forming to host these additional shows. We have also seen an average of three new breeds per year, with four joining the AKC ranks since the waning of the pandemic.

Does a preponderance of events actually hurt entries? We have looked into this question thoroughly. There is a line of thinking that the existence of more than one show in a similar territory hurts the entries at both. We looked into that question to find out the facts. Through competition records, we studied the effects on entries in a scenario of three shows located in a triangular configuration on the same weekend, each 250 miles from the other. When one of the three shows changed its weekend, we learned that the remaining two shows did not absorb the entry of the rescheduled show. Ninety percent of the exhibitors at the original location of the rescheduled show did not exhibit in one of the two remaining shows on that weekend. Why? A number of factors. The judging panel can be a determining factor, of course. But more often people reported they did not want to travel further than a limit they had set for themselves. On average, most exhibitors will travel up to 200 miles to show their dogs. They didn't want to have to stay overnight. They didn't find that the breakdown would increase sufficiently to make the trip. They simply did not have the time and money to invest in the distance.

There are many reasons people choose to stay somewhat local. The price of gas, lodging and food easily come to mind. The pace of life in general has become faster and busier. We work harder and longer than earlier generations. I recall many years ago I was told that my 40-hour workweek would before long become a 36-hour workweek. Of course, that didn't happen. Those of us lucky enough to be able to retire have to wait two years longer or more, than folks could 40 years ago. We seem to have less leisure time altogether. We love our sport, but it takes a great deal of time. America's pastime, baseball, has changed some of its rules to keep the game moving and retain its fan base. This isn't as feasible in our world. So, we make the time, and we use it judiciously, selecting events carefully. The availability of events to

accommodate more exhibitors everywhere they are, has become necessary to advance AKC's mission.

We all know the graying of the sport is real. But, as I said, clubs are growing. My own All-Breed Club has seen quite a few new, younger members in the previous year or two.

New club accreditation of course decreased in 2020 and 2021 as a direct result of the pandemic, when it was difficult to hold events. In those years, we saw 32 and 39 new clubs form respectively. Growth came in 2022 with 51 new clubs, which was also more than the pre-pandemic year 2019. On the flip side, 6 clubs did dissolve last year, which was fairly consistent with the previous years. The bottom line is every year we are in positive territory, with many more clubs forming than leaving. This indicates that our sport is still a vibrant activity for people eager to build community around breeding, showing, training and competing with purebred dogs.

The "strange days" of the pandemic are in our rearview mirror. Thankfully, with entries rising, events growing, registrations stable and new clubs forming, there is much to look forward to.

As we study the trends, we can say, "I think we are back." Even though we know we never left. And we're better than ever before. See you all in Orlando.

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

My thanks to the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee for last night's excellent New Delegate Orientation. It was a successful evening attended by members of the Staff, the DAAC committee, the entire AKC Board, and there were 31 new Delegates in attendance. The array of educational topics was most impressive. So, appreciation to their committee for their consistent quality initiatives.

Today's meeting we'll share with you the wide body of work within the AKC universe, including presentations from Business Intelligence, Delegate Ruth Crumb's remembrances of 9/11, an introduction to Sports & Events video of Meet the Breeds in the Field, an update on Juniors, as well as the AKC Archives, Detection Dogs and the PAC.

The Chair called on Ruth Crumb, Delegate of the Magic Valley Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Thank you, Dennis. I'm sure that many of you thought we were going to forget our annual remembrance presentation of 9/11. But we're not. We've always had very meaningful presentations of each anniversary, and there was one such two years ago that Dennis and I had a conversation afterward, he always wants to talk on this subject, and I do too because I was here, and we started a conversation out about the presentation effort two years ago, and I began to tell him that there were many writings on the Delegate e-list following that event that I wish I had copied and saved. But I didn't. Dennis was intrigued, and I volunteered to work on soliciting and assembling the stories of the Delegates who were present on 9/11/01, and so this project began. It started about a year and a half ago, soliciting stories from the Delegates. As a

background, there were 288 Delegates present on 9/11/01, and when I started this project there were 70 who remained as Delegates. Since I started soliciting the stories for you to write, we have sadly lost three who have passed away, and at least two who have resigned as Delegates. Those two did contribute their stories. And before she passed away, one Delegate wrote her story. Today I am happy to announce that a webpage on AKC.org has been created to house this living document. Delegates can access it by going to: <https://www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/delegates/akc-911-tribute/>.

More importantly, for those of you who did not respond to my many requests, I encourage to do so as soon as you can before you forget. Please send your stories. I'm at [wrcrumb@aol.com](mailto:wrcrumb@aol.com). I'm also in the directory. I will format these that you submit as I did all of the others, and then I will turn them over to AKC for placement on the website.

I want to thank Amy Hamernick, Executive Projects Administrator; Alexandra de Leon, AKC Corporate Projects and Services Administrator, Chris Espiritu, Design Projects Manager; Dan Smyth, AKC Board for making many calls and follow up emails to help solicit the input for this and certainly not least to Dennis for his guidance and support. In closing I refer you back to the title of the cover page of tribute document, Infinite Remembrance. One definition of the word "infinite" is things that are endless. Our memories of that day are indeed infinite. In addition, the memories reflected in these stories are very poignant, personal and funny. They show that our Delegates on 9/11/01, in the days reflect the strength, ingenuity and resilience of each of us on 9/11/01.

I wonder if we could have those present that are here now today that were here on 9/11/01, could you stand, please? And don't forget to visit the website. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung led a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11/01.  
(Moment of silence.)

The Chair called on Kassi McCombe, AKC Business Intelligence Manager, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. The term "Data-driven" is becoming sort of a buzzword in the corporate culture. But I do want to take a little bit of time today to talk about the data-driven workforce. Specifically, how Business Intelligence is transforming data and making it accessible and informative in the AKC so our internal stakeholders and employees can continue to strive toward that data-driven workforce and data-driven decision-making ideal.

As just introduced, my name is Kassi. I am the Business Intelligence Manager. I started about five years ago with AKC and was just here speaking with you all about a year ago. At that time, we talked about statistics and demographics, and today I want to talk about ad hoc and automated recording that the Business Intelligence department does to support and foster a data-driven workforce here at AKC.

Every organization has data. The AKC is no different. In fact, you could make an argument that the AKC is a data company. The organization runs on the collection, retention, and processing of data. From registrations to results, at its core, it is all data. What we do with data, how it's stored and accessed, has a big impact on how it can be leveraged within a company. A lot of us might be familiar with some of the images to the left. These can be messy or overwhelming ways to store or access data sets. We can talk about Oracle or SQL, CMS and Excel. I love a good Excel. But you might know that it's hard to update. You have to update it manually (unless you're technically proficient to figure out a way to automate it); there's human error that can get into Excel; and it's pretty hard to share. You might make a wonderful graphic, but in order to replicate it or have your colleague be able to see any changes that you make, can be difficult.

Getting away from some of those manual processes, the Business Intelligence department is pushing the AKC towards new types of reports which I'm going to refer to as dashboards, and they're a much cleaner way to display the data both visually and in standard data tables. The program that we're using is called Tableau. It's a phenomenal program and making a big difference in how we access data and use data to make informed business decisions at AKC. We brought in this program in very late 2017, and over the past couple of years, we have developed well over 100 dashboards supporting all channels of the organization. Notably robust with Marketing, Registration, Sports & Events, and e-Commerce.

When you talk about combining data into one place, security is very important. Tableau has advanced permissions and is only available to internal AKC employees. Within that, we can permission and limit who can see items, so it stays confidential to its department, as needed. As I was mentioning Excel updating, the benefit to Tableau is the automated data refresh. Nearly all our reports used internally update daily at 5:00 a.m. We do have some that update weekly, monthly, and quarterly by team request, and we do have some that actually update every single hour. There are a number of other items that make Tableau a benefit to the organization, but the primary one is the consolidation of data. We are aggregating data and creating a one-stop-shop in order to access data across the organization.

The power of this program lies in Business Intelligence purposely building reports to make them available both cross-departmentally, so we have multiple departments accessing the same report, and/or providing access to extremely granular data that otherwise is very difficult to get a hold of. We'll go through four examples quickly, two for each of these items.

The first is breed popularity. This is a cross-departmental dashboard. It's used for reference by Public Relations, of course by Registration, but also DNA, and Marketing among others. You might be familiar with what is recorded in this dashboard, though you've never seen it. The Most Popular Breeds data, published each March, is sourced from this report. Other items of registration trends, registrations per capita, and information on low entry or low registration breeds can be found [here](#).

Online dog registration, we actually have this for our dogs and litters. This is one of the dashboards that updates every hour. I think it's safe to say Mark Dunn has this up on his screen just about every day. It helps us monitor the online registration flow, how many dogs have started, completed or even abandoned that online registration process. It tracks the health of the web site. While it's primarily being used by registration, it has been used to push decision-making for the IT team. In addition to tracking the health of the site and identifying when we have a spike or a dip in online registration, IT was able use this in identifying when is the best time to take that site down for mandatory maintenance. Using data from this report, we were able to identify the best period for the developers to complete their work. In fact, we were able to shift the overnight work schedule two hours earlier than planned, allowing developers to begin maintenance work at 10 p.m. rather than 12 a.m. Not only we were able to make our developer a little bit happier, but we were also able to minimize and approximate the number of registrations which might be interrupted during that time frame.

Moving to more granular data, rather than having a report to service departments across the organization, these reports might be more specific to a certain team or department. What these types of reports are doing is decreasing the number of tickets or requests that we're sending to IT to generate recurring report. Instead, we're making them available with one click, and the level of detail you can get is unlike anything we've had before. There are three of these dashboards, which look at entries for Conformation, Companion and Performance Events by their class. We can drill down below the event or competition type to primary class, and even secondary class. We can go so far, in fact, as to ask, "how popular are ducks in herding trials?" If you wanted to go further, you can ask, "how many Started dogs, running Course A, use ducks versus sheep?" There is lots that you can do here. You can really dive in and ask some pretty crazy questions just with a couple of clicks. Finally, because of the way these are built and automated... when we introduced the Bred-by-Exhibitor adult and puppy classes, nothing in this report had to change. As soon as results for the new BBE Adult and BBE Puppy classes were in our data set, we were able to start evaluating some of the impact.

Finally, we have Junior Handler ownership of dogs. I think many of us are familiar with the pilot program that began last year. At that time Business Intelligence was approached to understand and try and get a good idea of how many Juniors were showing dogs that they owned, or a close family member owned. We wanted to track longitudinally how the change in the rules were impacting the ownership there. We built this really early on, within the first two months of that rule change to ensure we had a gauge on the interest and success of the rule change. Both of these dashboards were built in an automated fashion and built to both last and support the dynamic and changing nature of our sports.

Today we have seen some examples of both granular data that can help evaluate our programs and inform business decisions, as well as showcase purposeful design for departmental use, decreasing any kind of the data discrepancies and increase in transparency within the organization. Through dashboards like these, Business Intelligence is really diving into the trove of data that AKC has to support a data-driven culture and data-driven decision-making within the organizations. Thank you.

The Chair called on Caroline Murphy, AKC Director of Performance Events, who spoke as follows:

Hello everyone. I am here today on behalf of Doug Ljungren, our EVP of Sports & Events, and to share with you a short segment of an educational video called Meet the Breeds in the Field.

The purpose of the video is to demonstrate both the form and function of working dogs, in this case Pointing Breeds. To do this, we had two Conformation judges explain the major characteristics of each breed, that is the form part, then we filmed the dogs hunting in the field, that is the function part.

The complete Meet the Breeds in the Field video features 15 Pointing Breeds, and each breed representative was selected by its Parent Club. In the interest of time, what you will see today has been shortened to 6 breeds. That should give you an idea of what Meet the Breeds in the Field is about.

This video has been shared with several areas:

Conformation judges have been informed of its availability for their education and so far, it has been viewed over 3,000 times.

It has been provided to all AKC Pointing Breed Clubs for use at their meetings, outdoor expos or when they may have a booth.

Government Relations will use it when appropriate at legislative sportsmen caucuses.

It has also been shown to AKC employees for their education.

The AKC has many stories to tell. One that is central to our mission is explaining the value of purebred dogs and the enjoyable experiences they bring to us. That is what the video tries to do.

In addition to being interesting and educational, there are some important messages.

To understand the interdependence of form and function is to understand the value of purebred dogs. This concept is the foundation of an important part of AKC's Mission – "promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function." It is an essential part of what AKC is about.

While Conformation and Field Events are often thought of as separate sports, though enjoyed in their own right, they are linked together in a higher purpose – the preservation and enhancement of purebred working dogs.



When AKC was founded in 1884, its first two sports were Conformation and Field Trials. This was driven by the desire of owners and breeders to have a structured way to evaluate form and function.

Understanding the history of these breeds allows us to appreciate, that thoughtful owners and breeders, have been working to enhance them for hundreds of years, and we are the lucky ones who are benefiting from their work.

Considering the breeds in context of time, serves to remind us of our responsibility to the future of our breeds. Let's now take a look.

(Video played.)

Ms. Murphy continued:

We hope that you found this interesting and educational, perhaps even a little thought-provoking. We would also like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help make the video possible. If you would like to see the full 45-minute video, from the AKC.org home page, you can click on Products and Services, then Canine College, then Videos. The video has also been published on the main page for Pointing Breeds under Sports & Events, and on the AKC.tv. If you have any comments or thoughts about how the video can be used to help further tell the story of purebred dogs, please email Doug Ljungren at [dvl@akc.org](mailto:dvl@akc.org).

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:

I appreciate your time and your support and your attendance today. I have a personal shout-out to my Finance team in the back of the room, helping with the balloting. I'm glad they could get out of the office and get to meet some of you.

Today we're going to present some key performance indicators of non-financial and financial results for the first six months of 2023. This slide presents the totals for litter and dog registrations.

As you can see litter registrations total 155,735, which is 7 percent lower than the same period in 2022. Dog registrations total 339,936, which is 14 percent lower in the same period in 2022. To echo comments made earlier by Kassi, our online litter registrations make up 83 percent of total litter registrations, and our online dog registrations total 88 percent of dog registrations.

Once again, thank you, breeders; thank you Delegates; Board of Directors, Management Staff, my colleagues for the continued support of this registration program.

For our Sports & Events area, things are looking very positive this year. Events total 13,203 for the six months ending June 30, 2023 which is 6 percent higher than the same period the prior year. Also, for that same six-month period, entries totaled 1,824,717 and that's 3 percent higher than in 2022. Both events and entries are on pace for increases this year.

This is a high-level overview of the financial operating results year to date, through June 30, 2023. Please remember that these results reflect Board-approved spending for 2023. Each month we provide the board with a detailed report and analysis of financial results. Year to date through the end of June, you can see solid operating results with net operating income of \$7.8 million. This result continues to allow us to invest in our company for the future. As of June 30, net operating results are driven by total operating revenues of \$53.2 million. Almost 70 percent of the first quarter revenues come from registration and event fees, totaling \$36.5 million. Advertising, sponsorship and royalty revenues total \$9.5 million or 18 percent of total revenue; this represents the second largest line of revenue in business operations. Product and service sales total \$6.2 million or 12 percent of total revenue, and this section is principally led by e-Commerce, DNA Services and Good Dog Help Line.

Let's look at some operating expenses for the same period, the six months ended June 30, 2023. Total operating expenses for this period are \$45.4 million. Staff expense, our largest portion of that is \$22.1 million and comprises 50 percent of our total. The other substantial operating lines are listed on the slide and represent only budgeted items that run the AKC programs. These include professional fees, fulfillment expenses, insurance, rent and depreciation. And of course, a most important part are donations to support our charitable activities. We measure these as a percentage of total operating revenues, so while on the slide you see it saying 6 percent of total expenses, the Board policy is to look at a range of 4 to 5 percent of operating revenues; the total as of June 30, 2023, is 4.7 percent which aligns with the approved policy. In total, we endeavor to manage these costs very closely to ensure that our programs are well-preserved and represented. Non-operating expenses are reported to the board as well and include the annual cost of pension expense and changes in the value of investments.

Here's our balance sheet, the "Keep It Simple" balance sheet. Total assets of AKC on June 30, 2023, were \$255 million. Investments make up the largest portion of our assets. Our investment results which are derived from a blended asset allocation policy, total 7.6 percent as of June 30, 2023, and this is improved over prior periods; the allocation and investment policy statement are well represented in the results. The liability section is composed primarily of retirement and lease obligations, and as with all of the numbers presented today, we follow generally accepted accounting principles.

I thank you for your time, appreciate your support, and I'm available to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

There was a vote on the amendment to **Chapter 2, Section 14**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which inserts "or access to", to recognize the acceptance of digital copies of required booklets at events. It modifies the list of required references, removing *The Complete Dog Book*. It also replaces the list of documents to have available "when applicable" with the generic statement of "any other applicable rules, regulations and/or guidelines for the competitions being held." in recognition of the greatly expanded and changing list of competitions held with Conformation dog shows.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article XIII, Section 2**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Article XIII, Section 2**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for a Trial Board notice of charges being filed.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws 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 December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed Amendment to **Article XIII, Section 7**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Article XIII, Section 7**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes the italics that do not affect the meaning of the sentence about an appeal of a Trial Board decision.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws 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 December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo This amendment is to **Article XIV, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for an Event Committee suspension by a club or association.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws 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 December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 13**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Chapter 11, Section 13**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, removes the reference to sweepstakes and futurity judges from the rule as any restrictions have historically been defined by Board policy. It also replaces the third paragraph of the current rule with a general statement that directs individuals to the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Judges* for information concerning exhibiting restrictions for sweepstakes, futurity and special attraction judges as they are defined by Board policy.

This amendment was proposed by Staff, endorsed 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 December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 16, Section 1**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships*.

Ms. DiNardo: **Chapter 16, Section 1**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships*, which removes verbiage related to the Parent Club designating one specialty as its National Specialty show as this text was inserted with the amendment to allow Parent Clubs the option to offer a 3-pt. major for Reserve Winners at its National Specialty and it would no longer be relevant for purpose of this section. It replaces Parent Club with breed club and National Specialty with specialty show to reflect the ability for a 3-pt. major to be awarded for Reserve Winners at any specialty show. It also rearranges text for better understanding and comprehension as well as removes the provision which only applied to the 2021 calendar year.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 29**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Chapter 14, Section 29**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, which removes the restriction that if the club fails to hold the horseback championship, it may lose the ability to hold the walking championship.

This amendment was proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America 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 December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on Jaimie Fritz, AKC Archivist, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. I'm Jaimie Fritz. I'm the AKC's Archivist and Librarian, and I'm here to talk about our services, what we've been doing over in the library, and to give you an update on some new projects and let you know how you can interact with us and what we're doing for you. Let's start with what we do in the library. Our mandate is to collect, preserve and promote history of the American Kennel Club and the history of purebred dogs. We do this by acquiring a series of collections in various forms of media. As you can hopefully see on the slide we have over a 1,000 feet of archival collections that are primarily paper-based. By "feet" we usually mean a standard banker's box, so lots and lots of boxes. We have a 10,000+ volume library. Those volumes date back from as early as the 1500s to new releases that are being published today. We also have historical magazines and newspapers from the AKC. Of course, we have our *Gazette*, as well as Parent Club publications, international kennel club publications, and other dog news items. Lastly, we have the AKC administrative archives. These collections vary but they include things like founding documents, rule pamphlets, breed standard information and other items which let us track the history of AKC events, standards and breeds.

What we do in the archives with all of these things? We have a variety of services. Primarily they start with acquisition, which means bringing new objects into the collection and taking stewardship of them on behalf of the AKC Archives. We expand our collection both physically and digitally. More digital materials are becoming very standard for us to be working with, so we are building platforms that will allow us to store and hopefully promote those digital materials. But of course, we do still get a lot of paper-based contributions. Once we acquire the materials through donation, we do collection management, which involves organizing and rehousing materials so that they are preserved for the future. This means preventing any physical degradation or information loss, as well as making sure that materials are discoverable and usable by our patrons. In many cases our donors will participate in that organizing effort with us. In some cases, we have to do that on-site, where we're making sure that collections are grouped together, and that they're being described well and are discoverable through our online search functions.

Reference is another big vector for us, and one that I do want to speak a little bit more on very quickly. We do lots of research. We scan letters and documents. We prepare materials for visitors and for folks who have questions about items in the collection. Particularly post-COVID, a lot of this has moved into the virtual model, where we on the AKC side do research for those patrons who are not able to make it into visit our collections. We are currently working on an overhaul of our reference intake system to address a backlog of reference requests. I know some of you I've spoken to already about the backlog which has come from both an influx of new projects as well as existing virtual requests that require significant on-site research time. We are planning on debuting a new system for managing that, which will let us know who you are, what materials you need, what that will require from the archives, and when we'll be able to get back to you. It will also include more regular updates if those projects are in process but haven't been completed yet, and we're hoping to eliminate the lag time some of you have experienced where you have not received timely updates about your reference requests.

We also participate in outreach. We just helped to curate the new *Fashionable Dogs* exhibit at the Museum of the Dog, which I highly recommend. We also fulfill social media and web article requests, and I do research for our podcast *Down and Back* which I also recommend if you haven't listened to. Lastly, we offer services like pedigree verification going back hundreds of years for folks who need verifications and genetic information from the pre-digital records. How can you get involved with the AKC Archives? There are plenty of ways and again, we would love to facilitate this more efficiently in the future. Our hope is to automate more of these processes to allow us to serve you better by making contributions to the Archives easier. The most common way to get involved with the Archives is to organize and donate materials from your Parent Club. Your club may already have somebody designated to organize these records. If you don't have a collecting relationship with the AKC archives, we are also able to provide workshops on what to preserve and how to better organize your own records. If you are keeping those records within your club, we can provide advice on how to track those materials and properly store them to keep them safe for future generations. Additionally, if you do personal research that you feel contributes to the study of your breed significantly, we do have breed research files and we would love to have your contributions to those. If you have events or projects that you would like to support with archival materials like photographs or research, we're available for that as well.

What are the types of records that we collect? Administrative records, publications, event records, photos and video, any kind of multimedia really. We also love to see memorabilia and other ephemera. We have a limited capacity for it but it's very fun for our visitors. I always say, "wild card." We have some journals from breeders that folks are always asking to see. We have a card game of AKC breeds. We have vintage grooming tools. The more unique the better! We love to see all aspects of dog history.

Lastly, I just have a few quick updates about our new projects. The Digital Library, I'm sure some of you have heard of by now, is at [library.akc.org](https://library.akc.org). This is a fully text searchable database of the full run of the *AKC Gazette*, as well as our historic show catalog collection. This is a huge wealth of information. The search functionalities are finicky sometimes, but the

materials are always there and are downloadable. We are planning on continuing to add to this collection, and we would love feedback on some other large categories of published materials that would be useful to our members. Some collections that we have considered are historical iterations of our rule pamphlets and breed standards. If you have any questions about the Digital Library, please be in touch.

Another huge project that we're really excited to talk about is the St. Hubert's at Giralda Farms scrapbooks. I've been working with my colleagues at the AKC Humane Fund and the Museum of the Dog to establish a collecting relationship with St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center and the family of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, one of the icons of our sport. We traveled to New Jersey to inventory a large series of scrapbooks that contain photographs and news clippings documenting the history of the sport, the Morris & Essex show, and more. The first batch of those scrapbooks, which date roughly from the 1920s-1940s, have now been transferred to the Archives and we are so excited for our researchers to see them. We will eventually be fully digitizing this collection and making the scrapbooks available online. That will be a collaborative project and in the spirit of this partnership the AKC Humane Fund has given a grant to St. Hubert's Safe Haven Program which helps victims of domestic abuse leave dangerous living situations by providing interim care for family pets.

Finally, we have an upcoming book sale fundraiser that I wanted to briefly speak about. This will take place on November 4, 2023 at the Museum of the Dog, and there will be an online component as well. We are doing an overhaul of our library catalog to ensure that we're making space for new titles in our collection. We want to keep our offerings fresh and, in that spirit, we will be doing a book sale. We will be weeding some duplicate volumes and some older editions of existing titles and putting those on sale to make room for new books. If you would like to donate books to the sale, you are more than welcome to do so, and please be in touch. But otherwise, you will be able to purchase select volumes online through the Museum gift shop when that time comes, and there will be preview sales for Parent Clubs for books that are regarding their particular breed. We are really excited about that, and all of the money raised will be going right back into the Museum and funding new purchases for the library. If anyone has additional questions, please feel free to email me and thank you for your time.

The Chair called on Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota, to recognize AKC Delegates who served 25 years.

Mr. Carota: Thank you. Good morning. We will now honor Delegates with 25 years of consecutive service. The medallion is in recognition of meritorious and long-term contributions to our Sport. This program enables us to recognize our core constituency and allows a grateful American Kennel Club the opportunity to honor our own.

**Connie Butherus**, Afghan Hound Club of America

**Carl E. Gomes**, Pacific Coast Boston Terrier Club

**Carl Holder**, Beaumont Kennel Club

**Gary Kavan**, Nebraska Dog and Hunt Club

**Cindy Miller**, Waterloo Kennel Club  
**John R. Lewis, Jr.**, Sussex Spaniel Club of America

Also, we'd like to acknowledge three additional Delegates who achieved 25 years of consecutive service but were not previously recognized.

**Lucy Campbell**, Baltimore County Kennel Club  
**Susan LaCroix Hamil**, Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County  
**Betty Winthers**, Pasanita Obedience Club.

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> time that AKC has had the privilege to present Delegate medallions to a total of 142 Delegates.

The Chair called on Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies, to recognize the clubs celebrating 100 years of membership in The Great American Kennel Club.

Dr. Davies: Good morning again. You know The America Kennel Club recognizes its clubs on the anniversary of their centennial. That's 100 years of membership.

The following clubs are celebrating 100 years of Membership:

**The Chihuahua Club of America**, Delegate, Joao Machado  
**Louisiana Kennel Club**, Delegate, Luis Sosa  
**Onondaga Kennel Association**, Delegate Glen Glass  
**Samoyed Club of America**, Delegate, Gary Griffin

The Chair called on Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President Government Relations; Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board and Delegate for the German Shepherd Dog Club of America; and Chris Sweetwood, AKC Board and Delegate for the Trap Falls Kennel Club, to give an update on the Detection Dog Task Force.

Dr. Battaglia: I'm Carmen Battaglia, and I want to talk a little bit about the AKC Detection Dog Task Force, and Dennis, thanks for a nice introduction. Everything got started for us with 9/11. Then there was Boston, Brussels, Chelsea, and Manchester. In 2016, the U.S. Senate held hearings on the security of the infrastructure using working dogs. Sheila Goffe from Government Relations and Dr. Cindy Otto from University of Pennsylvania Working Dog Center were two of the witnesses. The Senate learned that 80 percent of the dogs used in this country to protect us came from Europe, and a large percentage of them fail when they get here. Following those hearings, Dr. Otto asked me to contact the AKC Board to see if we could get involved. She knew that we had the breeders, the clubs, the capacity to help the country, and it goes back to when AKC helped the country back in World War II with a program called Dogs for Defense Program. I contacted the Board and told them about the problem, and they agreed and formed the AKC Detection Dog Task Force. Our mission was to develop a domestic breeding program for detection dogs. Chris Sweetwood became my Co-Chair, and we set out to get the job done. The task force is made up of AKC Board members and AKC Staff. We set out to identify and visit breeders, clubs, vendors, and government agencies. We



identified the stakeholders and began to have annual meetings to learn and discuss how to better develop detection dogs. Lots of questions surfaced. Awareness became our big problem, and it made us learn how to better communicate. Our program with the breeders is called the Patriotic Puppy Program. Sheila is going to explain how we make that work, and help you appreciate what AKC is really doing to help the country.

Ms. Goffe: Thank you, Dr. Battaglia. The Detection Dog Task Force realized that a number of issues were creating the shortage of detection dogs. This included little awareness of the crucial role that detection dogs play in protecting national security, little understanding of the need for a reliable domestic source for detection dogs; government policies and pricing that actually discouraged U.S. breeders and the need to educate breeders about how to raise puppies to be future detection dogs.

We developed a three-prong approach to the mission, working with lawmakers to change policies and improve opportunities for U.S. breeders. Raising awareness and bringing together expert stakeholders including breeders, buyers, researchers and trainers to create solutions and share best practices. And of course, breeder education, providing breeders with information, tools and resources that they need to produce future detection dogs.

Our accomplishments and activities included in the area of public policy, we testified before Congress and drafted legislation to streamline government purchasing practices. In July 2023, in fact, we were invited to present our program to a new federal interagency coalition on working dog acquisition. We were the only private organization invited. Since then, we hosted 18 webinars and seminars with more than 1000 participants. Our webinars offered expert instruction and discussion on a wide range of topics with plenty of Q&As for the experts.

The AKC 2022 National Detection Dog Conference brought together over 100 participants and 23 presenters for two days in Durham, North Carolina. We explored topics ranging from genetics of successful working dogs, to best training practices, national standards and advocacy, plus networking opportunities to foster breeder-industry collaboration and mentoring. Our next conference will be in the summer of 2024. In the meantime, we put together a new quarterly newsletter that provides updates on these and related topics.

The third prong of our effort is breeder outreach and education. There are two key components, the Confident Puppy online course leverages content from top breeders and from the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program to help anyone raise a confident puppy that can go on for advanced training as a working dog, competition dog or just a great pet.

The jewel of our program is the Patriotic Puppy Program, and it's managed by Stacy West. Early phases of this program developed puppy-raising fundamentals protocols and demonstrated that AKC breeders can raise exceptional detection dogs that meet our nation's needs. Today, we are working with participants one on one to continuously improve outcomes and scale up their detection dog puppy breeding and raising activities. More than 140 breeders

in 35 states are participating, and more than 70 Patriotic Puppy graduates are working in detection careers. I'm pleased to introduce a brief video that highlights our program.

(Video played.)

Mr. Sweetwood: Good afternoon. We have just discussed what the task force is doing and why. We, The America Kennel Club, are the experts. We've done this before throughout World War II, Korea and the beginning of Vietnam, and we can do it again. When it comes to our first responders, they need our help. They want American Kennel Club purebred, purpose bred, pedigree dogs. European importation is costly, does not work and is a waste of our tax dollars. The task force is well on its way to solving these shortages of quality detection dogs. AKC breeders produce the best, healthiest, purebred dogs – pedigreed dogs that excel in the field. Our history has shown this. As Americans we've always answered the call, and our first responders and military risk their lives daily to protect us. We owe them the best dogs. Sadly, many of them make the ultimate sacrifice. You can help. Enroll in Patriotic Puppy. Encourage your friends to enroll in Patriotic Puppy, and we will show you how to train and socialize your puppies for a career in law enforcement. Become a confident puppy raiser. Support AKC Government Relations, their legislative and policy efforts are crucial to the owners who work for the program, as well as your rights as dog lovers. Financially support AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop Program, that provides the grants to help the breeders get the price they need to be successful in this program. To keep this program financially viable for the future, we've had to limit the number of grants to 250 dogs per year. We've already reached that limit. To date that grant program has purchased over 500 police dogs in the USA. Let's make it a thousand. Let's all get involved and make sure that "If it Barks, it is AKC." Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, we'll be outside at the booth, and we'll work with you to help make this a success. Thank you so much.

The Chair called on Nancy Fisk, Delegate from the Hockamock Kennel Club, and Sally Fineburg Delegate from the Hatboro Dog Club, for an update on the Juniors Committee.

Ms. Fisk: Hi. I'm Nancy Fisk, Chair of the AKC Juniors Committee.

Ms. Fineburg: I'm Sally Fineburg, member of the Juniors Committee, representing the Hatboro Dog Club.

Ms. Fisk: We're here with an update from the Junior's Committee. Our mission is to assist clubs in attracting, engaging and retaining Juniors and young adults. Juniors are important to clubs for many reasons. It's a way to bring new exhibitors to club events. We can work on building a new breeder base, so we have the next generation ready to take over for the current breeders. Bringing in Juniors is a great way to keep building your club's membership.

Ms. Fineburg: To help attain our goals of creating our next generation of fanciers, the AKC Board approved the new role, the Junior Coordinator. This is a volunteer who advocates for Juniors, shares information from the AKC to the clubs and works within their club to develop

ways to attract Juniors, build the Junior membership, promote Juniors at shows and events, as well as in their communities. For those clubs who do not yet have a provision for the Junior membership, it's easy to add. The Board has streamlined the process so your club may add the Junior Membership to your bylaws without review of the entire bylaws.

Ms. Fisk: The Junior Committee created quite a buzz proposing canine partners be eligible in Junior Showmanship. As many of you remember, The AKC Board approved this suggestion as a Pilot Program. While the Pilot Program was not adopted, the success of this program, was that it created quite the discussion about Juniors.

It resulted in the Junior ownership requirement being changed. Juniors no longer have to own the dog they are showing. This allows for novice participants who do not own a dog to test the waters and provides greater exposure and mentorship opportunity for those already participating.

Junior organized and run clubs are making a comeback. While we had a few, I believe in the 1970s, we have not had any for many years. Right now, we have Junior Clubs in Arizona and Washington. These clubs really speak to how capable our Juniors are and how much they can accomplish on their own, with just a bit of guidance and mentorship.

Ms. Fineburg: In an effort to reach out to as many kids and their parents and demonstrate the value of being part of Juniors, the Junior Committee is actively producing and seeking articles written by Juniors as well as those written by adults about Juniors. AKC's *Family Dog* Editorial Staff has been supporting this initiative by featuring these articles as well as other publications.

Ms. Fisk: In addition to publishing articles, we are reaching out to 4-H kids to include them in AKC activities. We also watch what works for 4-H and model programs for AKC Junior activities.

Some clubs have had great success attracting Juniors to Junior Showcase events. The kids learn a lot and have tons of fun competing. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Clubs are encouraged to offer a Junior Showcase event in either Obedience, Rally, Agility or Junior Showmanship. Clubs are encouraged to have reduced or no entry fees for the Junior Showcase Events. Additional events that clubs may offer for Juniors include AKC Registered Handler Program Clinics and social gatherings.

Ms. Fineburg: What's been great fun is seeing Juniors enjoying and succeeding in Performance and Companion Events, like Lure Coursing, Field Events, Obedience, Agility and more in addition to Conformation.

Ms. Fisk: Clubs and clusters have found they attract more Juniors when they offer Juniors Scholarships to the Best Junior and/or Best of the Best Junior for the Cluster. Many offer a smaller scholarship to the Reserve or runner up Junior.

Ms. Fineburg: I think many of you have seen the Pee Wee class but for those of you who haven't, it is priceless! These kids ages 5 to 9 exhibit either a real dog or a stuffed animal and are literally jumping for joy in the ring. Plus, they leave a smile on the faces of all those ringside. It's easy to offer – just submit a special attraction form, make sure you have club members to help outside the ring, offer special ribbons or goodie bags and if possible, maybe pizza or ice cream after.

Ms. Fisk: These are our future breeders. Everything we do now to attract, engage and retain the younger generations will help develop our future breeders and handlers and keep our fancy alive. Educational opportunities that may exist include mentoring youngsters interested in your breed and also about the many events that the sport has to offer.

Ms. Fineburg: We would love to hear what you and your clubs are doing. We invite you to share your experiences and highlights. Feel free to send stories or pictures. Or contact us if you have questions. Just use the email on the screen: [juniors@akc.org](mailto:juniors@akc.org).

Ms. Fisk: We are thrilled with the progress we've been making with Juniors and look forward to what's next. On behalf of Sally and I, I'd like to introduce the rest of the members of the Juniors Committee. Eddie Dziuk, Blaine Grove, Douglas Johnson, Patty Sample, Dr. Dawn Schroeder, Cindy Stansell, Marjorie Tuff, Jane Wilkinson, and a new member that we just added, Dan Sayers. We'd also like to thank Dr. Michael Knight our Board Liaison and of course Mari-Beth O'Neill our Staff Liaison who we are so happy to work with and for.

All of the people who we just mentioned as members of our club please stand up so that we can acknowledge you. Without the work of all of these people, we wouldn't have been able to accomplish as much as we have with Juniors, and we look forward to doing much more. Thank you.

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club, to provide an update on the PAC.

Ms. LaBerge: Thank you, Dennis. First, I would like to thank Staff and the Delegates who did these wonderful presentations for us today. They have been excellent, informative, and a lot to take back to our clubs, thank you.

I know all of you have gotten the alerts from Government Relations and Sheila Goffe and the wonderful Staff she has, concerning the two bills that are being pushed to go onto the farm bill, and I know that all of you and your clubs have followed through and written your letters, contacted your representatives, your Congress people, but there is one other step where you can help. The PAC does donate as you know to those who are running for office or in office who support our position on canine legislation. Canine legislation is the only thing that the federal government lets us do. One way that you can help open those doors for Sheila and her Staff and others representing us is by donating to the PAC. We are having our sweepstakes start, and I have a neat little picture for you that, will be sent out on the Delegate Google e-list,

for each of you to share with your club members that tells you how to donate, how to have your donation get you tickets for the sweepstakes. The sweepstakes this year is a lovely basket valued at about \$350, but inside that is \$1000 gift card. It's called Treat Yourself. Karolynne McAteer from the PAC Board came up with the idea. We hope that each of you will stop at Sheila's booth to get your tickets. They're \$25 a piece or 5 for \$100 and know that what you're donating does go to help protect you and your dogs every day. Thank you for those who donate and for those who give monthly. I can't tell you how important that is. Thank you.

The Chair called on Ernest Obubah from KPMG to read the Teller's Report results of the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.

Mr. Obubah: These are the results from KPMG.

For the All-Breed Clubs Committee, the following three candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Terrie Breen
- William Ellis
- Nancy Fisk

For the Canine Health Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Dr. William Christiansen
- Eddie Dziuk
- Dr. Marty Greer
- Dr. Joellen Gregory

For the Field Trial and Hunting Test Event Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Gloria Askins
- Neal Goodwin
- Heidi Henningson
- Nance Skoglund

For the Parent Clubs Committee, the following three candidates were elected for three-years terms:

- Karen Burgess
- Douglas Johnson
- Helen Prince

Also, for the Parent Club Committee, the following candidate was elected for a one-year term:

- Don Hanson

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the names of the Delegates who will serve on the Committees that did not require a vote.

Ms. DiNardo:

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Bylaws Committee are:

- Gretchen Bernardi
- Eugenia Hunter

- Pamela Rosman
- Abbe Shaw

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Companion Events Committee are:

- Eleanor Campbell
- Ruth Crumb
- Laura Trainor
- Larry Wilson

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee are:

- Barbara Burns
- Marge Calltharp

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Dog Show Rules Committee are:

- Harry Miller
- Barbara Shaw
- Diana Skibinski

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events Committee are:

- Don Adams
- Pam Davis
- Robert LaBerge
- Lisa Pruka

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the *Perspectives* Editorial Committee are:

- Alyson Casper
- Blaine Grove
- Sharyn Hutchens
- Don James
- Erika Wyatt

Mr. Sprung asked that the AKC Board of Directors to stand up so the new Delegates know exactly who you are and make sure that they can approach you at any time.

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

Ms. DiNardo: At the July 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors appointed the following Delegates to the Nominating Committee to select three candidates for the Class of 2028:

- Patti Strand, Chair – Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon
- Marilyn DeGregorio – Taconic Hills Kennel Club
- Florence Duggan – Sussex Hills Kennel Club
- Don James – Leonberger Club of America
- Barbara Shaw – Greater Collin Kennel Club

Alternates:

- Terrie Breen – Farmington Valley Kennel Club
- Douglas Johnson – Colorado Springs Kennel Club

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee must be submitted by October 15, 2023.

The Chair called on Patti Strand, Delegate from Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon and Chair of the Nominating Committee, who spoke as follows:

Thank you, Dennis. The Nominating Committee is not prepared this morning to tell who the nominees are. We have a wonderful committee. I would like them to stand. Marilyn DeGregorio, Don James, Barbara Shaw, Florence Duggan, and then alternates, Terrie Breen, and Doug Johnson. We had seven wonderful candidates. One of the really good things about being the chair of the committee is getting to remind ourselves about how much talent we have in the Delegate Body. It's always kind of a bittersweet thing because there are always more people that are talented enough and have skills to bring to the Board than we can nominate. Our nominating report will go to Gina DiNardo, and you will have it by the end of the week. Thank you very much.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel prior to AKC's National Championship. Hotel information was previously emailed to the Delegates and posted to the Delegate Portal on AKC.org.

Lunch was served on the Terrace. Delegates were reminded to leave their badges at the registration desk following lunch.

The organizational meetings of the newly elected Standing Committees were instructed to begin as soon as the meeting ended.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America, spoke as President on behalf of the Greater County Clark Kennel Club. He advised that they would submit an AKC Bylaws change to Article VII, Section 1, with the goal of rescinding AKC Board of Directors term limits, most recently voted on at the September 2022 Delegate Meeting.

Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate for the Myrtle Beach Kennel Club, requested submissions for the next issue of *Perspectives*, for which she is the Assistant Editor.

Gale Golden, Delegate for the Framingham District Kennel Club, requested a way to address the non-standard breed registration issue so that AKC can continue to preserve purebred dog breeds and financial stability yet encourage new dog enthusiasts.

Roberta Berman, Delegate for the American Manchester Terrier Club, shared praise for a *Family Dog* article about two AMTC Juniors, sisters who currently breed Manchester Terriers. The older is going to vet school, where she's been a recipient of an AKC scholarship from the AKC. The younger one starts college this year and also plans to study veterinary medicine.

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America reported on the status of the Parent Club Best Practice Subcommittee which completed its two-and-a-half-year project developing a series of best practices webinars for Parent Clubs in ten different areas, and are available to current Parent Club members, FSS and Miscellaneous Breeds. The webinars averaged about 50 attendees per presentation and had consistent Q&A engagement.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

*(One sharp rap of the gavel.)*

(Proceedings concluded at 1:00 p.m. ET.)

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