

ASCA® Affiliate Meeting
2007 Golden Jubilee ASCA® Nationals
October 3, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.
Augusta, New Jersey

Board Attendance: Patrick MacRoberts, Rick Gann, Allison Bryant, Ann DeChant, Kristin McNamara, Linda Gray, Jo Kimes, Chris Davenport, Roger Stevens

Affiliates: Paula Waterman – Blue Ridge ASC, Todd LeBouef – HONYASC, Jonna Cole – SNAC, Gull Reidy – ASC of New England, Jerry Schetterer – Buckeye ASC, Mike Bryant – FCASC, Sue Graham – WCASA, Lori Anglemyer – ASC of Michigan, Judy Blount – Kentucky ASC, Chris Caldwell – Columbia WAASC, Dawn Welch-Semmel – Seneca Territory ASC, Joyce Leach NYASA, Pamela Gagnon – WASCUNY, Bill Pechka-King – NEASC, Judy Boone – Wasatch Working ASC, Andrea Bair – SNAC, Trish Alexander – COAST, Kathleen Glaes – Brandywine Valley ASC, Debra St. Jacques – WASCUNY, Tanya Wheeler – TBASCO, Kathy Stevens – SEASC

President Patrick MacRoberts called the Meeting to order and asked how can the Board help you do your job?

Judy Blount said the Clubs need to get their sanctioning back earlier. They sent their sanctioning paperwork to ASCA® in August for their November Trial. Even an e-mail confirmation would be helpful. She said this was not specific to Stock Dog Trials. Sue Graham agreed. The Office used to send a postcard to inform the Clubs that they had received the Sanctioning paperwork, but Judy said that e-mail would be less costly. She asked if sanctioning was a complicated process. Patrick MacRoberts asked those in attendance to please contact the Office with questions about outstanding sanctioning before hitting the Lists with it.

Dawn Welch-Semmel said that when Seneca Territory ASC submitted their Affiliate Application, they received a letter from the Office welcoming them to ASCA®, but it took three years for their name to appear on the Times. She called the Office often. This Club puts on all events, but it is hard to promote their activities if no one knows about them. Other NY Affiliates were unaware that they were out there! Joyce Leach from NYASA and Pamela Gagnon from WASCUNY said they never heard of Seneca ASC.

Jerry Schetterer said that with the complaints about the Office over the last few years, had the Board ever thought on a CRM system which would assign a ticket number to each contact. He said he does IT and CRM. It was suggested that he might be interested in ASCA®'s new Technology Committee. He said he is interested. Sue Graham said that the Office is dragging as far as sanctioning goes. Paula Waterman asked if Jean understands how important sanctioning in a timely manner is to Clubs. Patrick said that Jean does understand as she has a long ASCA® history prior to becoming ASCA® Office Manager. He said he would talk to Jean. Jerry Schetterer asked if the Board got reports from the Office. Patrick said that the Board does get reports and that they are followed up on. He reported that Michelle Berryessa has regular calls

with Jean and that he also meets with her by phone from time to time. He said he will inquire about sanctioning. Dawn Welch-Semmel said they sent a sanctioning request in February and never heard about it for months, so they called the Office. It was found in the Conformation pile and even then they didn't get it until May. Pam Gagnon said that there is a need for more staff as they seem at the breaking point.

There was another report of a registration that was not handled correctly. They were eventually given registration number but had never received a Registration Form. Patrick reported that ASCA® was having registration issues with a large backlog. ASCA® has hired a new Registrar who has cleaned up the backlog. ASCA® is now operating between one day and one week for Registrations. He also mentioned that RUSH Registration is available for \$75.

Chris Caldwell arrived and so did Deb St. Jacques. Judy Bloom reported that Stock Dog sanctioning often arrives a week before the Trial. An Agility Trial was applied for in April and the application was put in the Pending File. After calling, they got the sanctioning a day and a half before their Trial. Kristin McNamara stated that checks are cashed right away, but you should be aware that that doesn't mean any action has been taken.

Dawn Welch-Semmel reported that she had a personal issue with registration and DNA. When she called she had gotten help right away. Patrick said he would take feedback to the Office Manager first.

Kathy Glaes from Brandywine Valley asked if it was feasible for the Office to send email to say, "We got your sanctioning packet." She said there is a lack of communication coming back from the Office. Patrick replied that we aren't being great with communication. Judy Boone, Wasatch, asked that the Board please tell the Office Staff we appreciate the work they do, but share with the Staff that we need the stuff to be done. Jerry Schetterer said that Sarah is very helpful at the Office. One of the most time-consuming things at the Office is opening and stuffing envelopes for everything. It's amazing. Agility reporting is huge as well. Judy asked how we are coming with electronic submission. Patrick said that online reporting has been discussed.

Chris Caldwell, Working Australian Shepherd Club of Washington, said that there is money that could be saved. He received 6 envelopes inviting 2 dogs to the ASCA® Stock Dog Finals which cost \$3.80. Patrick said there is room for improvement. Dawn brought up the Office wanting to go from two to one copy of the Stockdog Trial Score Sheet. She stated that she needs two copies. Jerry Schetterer and Judy Blount said that the Club needs to keep the copy instead of send it to the Office. Deb St. Jacques said she had an experience with a score that was not recorded and thank goodness she had a copy. Several Members said they had priced printing of score sheets and got three places who would print the score sheets for less. Patrick asked them to give these quotes to ASCA®. Sue Graham said invitations are sent to all dogs and they receive a certified letter. She suggested that there should be ways that those with Finals qualifiers could go and sign up cheaper. Patrick stated that the Board will assign a task to Committees to see how invitations can be streamlined.

Andrea Bair announced that at 5:30 p.m. this evening, the Las Vegas Nationals Committee will present information for the 2008 Nationals to those who wish to find out more.

Tanya Wheeler arrived.

Someone asked if the 2009 Nationals had been awarded, and Patrick answered that it would be hosted by CASA and would be held in Greeley, Colorado again. Jo Kimes reviewed the process for Clubs to apply to host the Nationals. There was discussion about whether using the Purina site in Missouri is possible. The Purina Farms facility has all events outdoors, and it is available at no charge. Jerry Schetterer said that the arenas are 100' by 200', and they have panels that can be used to build what we need. Judy Blount said it is a very nice facility and they will do multi-year contracts. Jo Kimes said in the past, they wanted ASCA® to lock in for several years. They also don't have a huge number of RV sites with water and electricity. Patrick said that it would be great to have a Missouri Club apply to host the Nationals at Purina Farms. This could also be given to the new Nationals Committee. Paula Waterman said that we are reinventing the Nationals each year by not using a Superintendent. Several people shared their experiences of why Superintendents haven't worked to ASCA® Nationals.

Kristin asked what ASCA® can do to make it easier for Clubs in the East to host Nationals. Some suggested centralizing it. Andrea Bair said that she likes having Nationals move around to different parts of the country. Once again, recreating the wheel was mentioned. There was a suggestion that the Nationals Committee can help by developing a cheat sheet and a list of what you can expect. It was mentioned also that each year's host club gets help from the previous hosts, and that many wheels are not reinvented. Premium Lists are reused and the Clubs have passed on their databases for entries and for all of the people functions so that each successive host club has tools that they can use so they don't have to reinvent all of it. Pete Dolan is already working with Becci Maloney for next year. Someone brought up that USASA uses Purina Farms every other year and the other years are open for hosts in other areas.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann B. DeChant, ASCA® Secretary