

ASCA® Affiliate Meeting

September 19, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

West Bend, Wisconsin

Attendance: Jerry Aufox, BOD and RRVASC, SEMASA; Michelle Berryessa, BOD and ASC of WA; Ally Bryant, BOD and FCASC; Chris Davenport, BOD and ASCNE; Linda Gray, BOD and ASCNE; Jo Kimes, Executive Secretary; Ann DeChant, BOD and ASC of Michigan; Patrick MacRoberts, BOD-Elect and COAST; Kristin McNamara, BOD-Elect and COAST; Peter Hellmeister, BOD.

Robbi Norman, ASC of Michigan; Corey Norman, ASC of Michigan; Dakota Duvall, ASC of Michigan Jr. Member; Debbie Cosper, ASCA® Executive Director; Sue Graham, WCASA, COAST; Sue Schroeder, ASCNE; Wanda Jones; Anne Shope, ZIA ASC, Lobo ASC; Pete Dolan, ASCNE; Jayne Lips, ASCNE; Jerry Schetterer, BASC; Leah Swatko; Ron Neimzyk, RRVASC; Rhonda and Ken Silviera; Bill Pechka-King, ASCNE, ASC of Michigan, SWASCA; Cindy King, ASCNE, ASC of Michigan, SWASCA; Mike Bryant, FCASC; Barbara Peters; Paul Kirk, ASC of Southern California; Glenda Stephenson, Sunshine State ASC, Jan Wesen, ASC of WA; Kris Toft; Kyle Trumbull-Clark, ASC of Southern California; Debra St. Jacques, WASCUNY; Mary Finley, ASC of Southern California; Helen Wilson, ASC of Texas; Chuck Shults, ASC of Texas; Pamela Meeks, ASC of Texas, HOTASC, NHASC; Judy Boone, WASATCH Working ASC; Kathy Mathis, ASC of Texas, HOTASC, NHASC; Andrea Bair, SNASC; Jean M. Janotta, ASC of New England; Diane Johnson, ASC of NE; Andrea Hoffman, Mid South ASC, Volunteer State ASC; Kim Patterson, Upper Midwest ASC; Karen McDonald, Upper Midwest ASC; Roger and Kathy Stevens (arrived later) South East ASC; Marilee Mansir, WCASA; and Michael Black, HOTASC, ASC of Texas.

Absent: Maarten Walter and Roger Stevens (arrived later)

Robbi Norman asked what is happening with the Conformation Point Schedule as her club is particularly concerned about it. Jerry Aufox explained that the Conformation Committee presented a Point Schedule solution using the Point Schedule that is most advantageous to each club due to the fact the three Point Schedules were distributed. It is the understanding of the Board that this will only effect 11 ASCA® Affiliate Clubs. Glenda Stephenson asked if the Sunshine Australian Shepherd Club was on the list of 11. Jerry Aufox said that he didn't know but Ann DeChant might know. She said that she didn't know without checking with the Office. Glenda said that she was sent a sanctioning packet in May for a show in early June, and she was the one who stood in front of the attendees of their show and said they were on Point Schedule 1 as that is what they got in the mail. Jerry said, "That's what it will be. We were told that only 11 Clubs would have to have their show results adjusted."

Next year, there will be a different schedule, which has been proposed by the Conformation Committee. It will appear in the next *Aussie Times* and has also been sent to the ASCA®-L for comments from Members. Comments should be sent to Jo Kimes. The Board would like input from all Affiliates before it is voted on by the Board by December 29 so that it can go into effect for the next show year.

Paul Kirk, ASC of Southern California, asked if the Clubs can find out the show dates that have grandfathered in for ASCA® Affiliate Clubs. “It becomes interesting when trying to plan dates for shows and trials. We wondered if it could be published on the ASCA® Web site.” Glenda Stephenson explained that if you go to the ASCA® calendar that is on the Web Site, you can change the year and keep changing the year on that date. That way, you can see which clubs have that date. It will go back seven years, if she is not mistaken. Paul said his second question is how a single member differs from the Affiliate Membership. Jerry explained that the Affiliates are very important to ASCA® due to the fact that they carry out the programs. “They only have one vote, but they carry out ASCA®’s programs.” Paul asked if that wasn’t the function of the Committees. Jerry Aufox stated that the Committees design the programs and send them to the Board, but the Affiliate carry out the programs. He said that Affiliate input is extremely important, and the Board would love to have a better communication with the Affiliates. There was discussion here that wasn’t picked up on the tape.

How do we get better access to find out what program changes are before they are voted on? Jean Janotta, ASC of NE, brought this up. Mike Bryant said that the SDC has a Committee List that keeps the membership informed of issues under discussion before they get to the Board. He encouraged/asked the other Committees to follow suit and create similar lists. Jerry also stated that the Web Site and the *Aussie Times* also include Committee Reports which inform Members of their work in progress.

Jerry Aufox introduced Debbie Cospers our Executive Director. He said that one of the things the Board has asked her to work on is ways to publicize better to Members what the Committees are working on.

Kyle Trumbull-Clark stated that last night it was brought up that there is a discrepancy between the awards for Stock Dog Finals Awards and Obedience/Superdog Finals Awards and Agility Finals Awards should all be equal. She demonstrated the disparity between the finals awards and ribbons for the different venues. Another Member discussed the difference and quality of the Obedience Ribbons. Kyle then showed an Agility Finals ribbons and the attendees reacted. She pointed out that there is no way that they are even close in their size or quality. The Stock Dog Finals ribbons were the size of a large paper plate with long streamers and the Agility Ribbons were the size of a rosette for BOB at a local ASCA® Show. She said this is a problem. “This is what we get to hang on our wall, and they should all be equal.” She said, “I know how the rules go as I helped write them for the Agility and the Obedience Finals and to get those two Finals, we had to put in the rules that they would be self supporting. That’s not right. The Stock Finals get a huge chunk of change. These two Finals would cost a tenth of what the Stock Dog costs are but it still should be supported financially by ASCA® and not be supported completely by the entry fees of the qualifiers. This would have to come from you Committees and would have to be approved by the Board and then it should go in the National Specialty Rules that those awards are equal.” Kristin McNamara said that she thought the rules do say that, and then Kyle said, “If they do say that, then there is a problem this year. The point is that it needs to be in writing so that there is no question from the host club of what needs to be given.” Debbie St. Jacques, WASCUNY, said all are recognized in Stock, but in Agility only the top ten were recognized. She thinks that all of the ones who made each Finals, even if they didn’t make the Top Ten, they still need to be recognized. Just to get in, they deserve to be recognized and

should be equal across the venues. There were \$200 buckles in California for first place is Stock.

Jerry Aufox said the Committees will address it for Obedience and Agility. Kyle said "ASCA® has to foot the bill. Anything over the entry fees, ASCA® needs to cover." Mary Finley said that ASCA® needs to make up the difference between the donations and entry fees and what the Finals cost.

Pete Dolan, ASCNE, asked if there is a Conformation Finals coming up, and Jerry said there was one in the works by the Conformation Committee.

Kyle asked that the Liaisons need to convey to the Committee the importance of working this out and getting it worked out. Jerry said that would be done. Kyle said the Board can direct the Committees to handle this.

Sue Graham said, "If there are guidelines, but they are not followed, what is our recourse?"

Roger Stevens arrived.

There was additional discussion that was not picked up by the tape. Names are not on the ribbons. The guidelines were not followed. It's in the finals rules in the agility rule book. The rules were not followed. Someone asked, "what recourse do we have now?" Kyle suggested making up the streamer and sending it to them.

Karen McDonald, Upper Midwest, said that she gets rulebooks, but wants written mail alerting affiliates of new motions/rules in between rule changes.

Glenda Stephenson said that the Conformation Committee is not getting input unless there is a problem. "If you have concerns or you have something to be tweaked, the Committee can't work on it unless they know there's a problem. Don't wait for a rule to be changed we can't change a rule unless we know about it." Mike Bryant said, "We can't see what your committee is working on. You don't have a newsletter. Any ASCA® Member can read what is going on with the Stockdog Committee." Glenda said that she thought the Committee Reports are published.

Someone said that communication is the thing. "As the Affiliate Rep of my Club I don't know what's going on. Can't the Committee motions be sent to the Affiliate Rep?" Jerry Aufox said he thought that the Committee can send that stuff out. Jerry said the Board voting time frame is much shorter. Glenda said that she represents an area as a Committee Member, and she contacts them with questions and motions that might be affecting them. "We have Members from Regions. They should be like the delegates like the Affiliate Reps." Jerry said the reason we have Regional representation on the Committees is so they can represent the concerns of the Region. She said she contacts the Affiliates in her area with information and for feedback.

There was more discussion here that was not picked up by the tape. Jean Janotta asked how other clubs are finding hiring Judges since the AKC judge conflict of interest rule. Sue

Schroeder said that they have an AKC Judge who said he couldn't judge for them. Deb St. Jacques talked about a Tracking Judge who they have contacted about judging a Tracking Test who said that he would not be able to judge if ASCA® is effected by the conflict of interest policy. She said that she could send an e-mail to the office to that affect. Jerry Aufox said that he thinks that if we can identify that we have been hurt by this rule change, we might be able to get the attention of other entities. Jerry suggested sending an e-mail to the office to say that you have attempted to hire a Judge, and they won't be able to judge due the AKC Conflict of interest policy. He said we were collecting documents to demonstrate adverse affection and to get the interest of the US Gov't. Glenda Stephenson said that it effects Junior Showmanship Judges as well. Andrea (Armstrong) Bair said that they are hiring AKC Judges that are not licensed for Aussies. Agility is exempt according to AKC. Jerry also said that USASA has petitioned to exempt ASCA® Breeder Judges that are AKC Australian Judges from this rule.

Judy Boone, Wasatch Working Australian Shepherd Club, said she has run into a Judge that said he would choose AKC over ASCA®. She asked if we want a letter stating that. Jerry: "If you have attempted to hire him, let the Office know if he says he can't judge for ASCA® due to AKC Policy." She said she will contact him to see if he'll judge and will report this incident to ASCA®. Karen McDonald, Upper Midwest, said that she has quite a few that have indicated that they can't judge for ASCA®. She said that 80-85% of ASCA® Obedience Judges are from AKC. Pam Meeks asked about Stock and whether Stockdog Judges as exempt. Mike Bryant said, "A very small subset of our Stockdog judges are AKC herding Judges." Marilee Mansir, COAST, asked if is there anything that Affiliates can do to find out who the ASCA® members are who might be qualified to be a Judge. Glenda Stephenson suggested that letters to Judges asking them to judge might start out with, "Thank you for judging for ASCA® in the past, we'd like to update our records and see if you would Judge for ASCA® in the future."

Roger Stevens was introduced as he had arrived after the start of the Meeting.

Karen McDonald said that the two Finals judges are AKC and they are really unhappy that AKC is doing this. They have judged for ASCA® for years. Further discussion was held about judges and how much power they have. More things were said that were not picked up by the tape. Jerry Aufox said that AKC opened the books to certain hound dogs and allowed them to register free.

Judy Boone changed the subject. Agility and business office is her issue. Each time the Judge is hired, the office mails them the rule book every time. Also the rule books are only printed on the even pages. She thought they could be downloaded from the Web site or sent by e-mail as every Judge must have e-mail. Debbie said the Office said gets complaints that they want a new rule book every time. Sue Schroeder said she has an upcoming assignment, and this is the first time she has gotten a rulebook. Andrea Bair said maybe the sanctioning forms can have a box to check if the Judge will need a rule book. Another suggestion was for the Affiliate club to include in their contract when they hire a Judge that the Rule Book is available on the ASCA® website, and to let the Club know if that won't work for them and they will take care of getting one for the Judge. Get the Affiliate to ask for it. The Judge won't know when they need them as the Judge isn't going to know if the rules have changed. Jerry Aufox said that it will be looked into. Pete Dolan asked about Rules books and why his wife, the Affiliate Rep, hadn't

received the new Rule Books for the Club. The Show coordinator that is first on the list should get the packets, but Michelle thinks that this might have fallen away and may not be happening. The Rulebooks are updated every 6 months. Andrea Hoffmann said she got two sets of rule books, but she is also the Affiliate Rep for two Clubs. It sounds like some clubs get a lot of Rule Books and some don't get them.

Glenda Stephenson brought up the Judges books, why aren't the tabulating sections on all pages of the Judges books. Some Judges books pages have them and others don't have them. (She is discussing the books that the Conformation Judge signs for each part of the show with a section for the Judge to fill in to say how many have been judged, how many were excused.) She said the rule had been in place forever, and she thought they would be on all the pages by now. Jerry said, "We will look into it."

Jayne Lips, asked why rules aren't being followed. Obedience has had the same dog shown in the Finals three years in a row in the Novice finals. Jerry Aufox said we can look into it. This is what we need to know. He thanked her for reporting it. If there's a rule violation report it, and the Committee will address it. Things need to be brought up so that it can be addressed. Debbie St. Jaques said they didn't want to file a complaint because she is a nice person. They wanted to mention it here so that it can be fixed. Jean Janotta noted there is a system failure regarding certificates for ASCA® tracking Members...non-aussies for Titles. They call the Office to find out where their titles are and they are not being tracked. They have to provide all information about their titles. It was explained that the Office isn't tracking all non-aussies anymore. It was stated that the Tracking number is made by putting a T in front of the registration number that the owner provides on the application. The person who brought this up asked if it can be formatted the same so that the dog is easy to track. As a trial secretary, there is confusion as to whether they are providing a valid tracking number. The need is to come up with a formula that you would know is a valid number. Jayne again asked about the fact that only the qualifying dogs are sent for Agility. The catalog needs to be sent as well. With obedience they only send the Qs so they can't track to see what happened to all that showed. Some one asked if it would be a big deal to turn in all Obedience entries even those who don't qualify. As it is now, ASCA® has no way to know if the dogs who don't qualify were ever in the show. This is helping to cause the problem of a dog that doesn't qualify being able to be in the Novice Finals year after year. There was much of this discussion that was not audible on the tape.

Sue Graham asked how often programming happened. Software changes are a problem for Agility. Jean Janotta suggested that when rule changes are considered, all software vendors need to be informed about changes to software. Agility uses software for scoring, and not all Clubs use the same software. We don't have a list of software vendors. The Agility Committee needs to get a list of software vendors. If it's a valid concern take it to the Agility Committee. Ask them to make their changes take place in a longer timeframe to allow the Agility software changes to be made. Patrick made himself an Action Item to make this happen. Ally has, too. "A software e-mail list is in place," said Paul Kirk, "and it would be good for ASCA® to be involved with that." Sue Schroeder said that she thought that there was a standard time for rules to go into effect...every six months. Jerry explained that the standard is thirty days after change is published in *Aussie Times*, unless the committee states another effective date for a new rule. Jerry said a new rule cannot go into effect sooner than 30 days. Pete Dolan said that there is very

little chance for a rule change to be less than six months. He used the Agility Committee and NADAC Rule changes as an example. Jerry said the Committee can take as long or short as they want. There was discussion back and forth regarding how long these changes can realistically take place. Jean Janotta asked about how a change for the Agility Merit can go into effect so quickly. There was discussion about how no rule changes should take place until after the Secretary's Report is in the *Aussie Times*. There was discussion here that wasn't picked up by the tape. Michelle stated that if there is an effective date for the motion, then that is when it goes into effect. If there is no date in the Motion then the thirty-day timeframe goes onto effect. It needs to say in the Motion that it goes into effect June 1 or January 1, if that is the desire of the Committee. Karen McDonald suggested that the new rule changes be put on the website so that Members don't have to sort through the whole rules to find them. Mike Bryant mentioned that some rules are never mentioned in the Secretary's Report. Ann said that the face-to-face Board Meeting minutes are taken by Jo, and those may not have been published on the website. That needs to be corrected. Mike Bryant said that he thought the Rule Books had the changes highlighted. They are made available on the web site. More discussion was held about updating rules. Deb St. Jacques mentioned a specific problem regarding a Judge and work they are doing in the Committees.

Feedback needs to go to Jo. Patrick MacRoberts said that there are lots of good ideas, and we can look at them all to see what might work. As a new Director, he asked the Members to help us help you.

Ann DeChant said that Liaisons can take this back to the Committees that the rule changes should be effective either January 1 or June 1 as much as possible. Liaisons can communicate with the Committees that they need keep the rule book change dates in mind when making changes to rules.

Pam Meeks mentions said that Agility rules say bitches in heat can run at the Nationals. Someone made the decision that the Junior couldn't run due to the dog being in heat. The girl was told she couldn't run as it wasn't in MVA, and that rule is not in effect. Discussion was held about exactly what happened with the girl, the dog, and the gate steward. It occurred yesterday. Jerry Aufox said Urgent Complaints can be filed with the host Club. They should be filed immediately with the host Club. The person reporting this said the only reason she knew about it was because she was behind the Junior in line to go into the ring. Jerry: "People need to take care of the complaint immediately. That is what to do. You can do it on her behalf."

Pete Dolan asked if all the boiler plate language that governs all could be in one book and specifics then put in each book. It could be a show rule book. Some Directors said it used to be that way, and they were separated out. There was laughter about that. Pete said it was just a thought, and others said it was a great idea. There was more discussion about this. It was stated that the first three chapters of every rule book are basically the same.

Michelle corrected her statement. "The Bylaws say the Board sets the timeframe for Rule Changes, and the Policy manual says thirty-days after published in the *Aussie Times*."

Jerry asked if there was anything else.

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann B. DeChant".

Ann B. DeChant