

October 2015 Secretary's Report

This report details the day-to-day activities of the ASCA Board of Directors. It includes issues brought before the Board of Directors through mail, fax, e-mail, and/or telephone communications.

This report is respectfully submitted by Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.

Email Motions

From the Board

BD.15.103 Board Liaison Elections

Approve: DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Gray, King, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Motion: Silveira

Second: Kissman

I move the following language be added to the Committee Procedures; 2.5 Board Liaison where indicated.

"This election shall take place within thirty (30) days before or thirty (30) days after the General Membership Meeting held at the National Specialty."

2.5 Board Liaison

Each Committee shall vote to select one Board Member to function as the Liaison between the Committee and the Board. This election shall take place within thirty (30) days before or thirty (30) days after the General Membership Meeting held at the National Specialty. The Board Liaison is not a member of the Committee but is responsible to explain to the Committee what the Board's position is and to see to it that Committee Procedure, Board Policy and Robert's Rules of Order are followed. At the Liaison's discretion, he/she may redirect the committee to realign with the current committee priorities.

Reason: Since the time line for electing Liaisons is not now in the Committee Procedures, it makes sense it should be included. We have moved the appointment process for Committee Membership from the Fall meeting to the Spring meeting. It is agreed the selection of Liaisons should be done at the Fall meeting when Director positions turn over.

BD.15.104 Amend BD.15.88 Infectious Disease Directive

Approve: DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Gray, King, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Motion: Dolan

Second: Silveira

I move to amend BD.15.88 Board Directive - Infectious Diseases as follows:

Change the Stockdog rulebook location from:

Stockdog - add to 4.11

To read:

Stockdog - insert as 4.2 and renumber the following sections

Rationale: This is a more logical location than that contained in the original motion as the verbiage is general in nature covering the entire trial site rather than only the arena.

Effective when approved by the Board of Directors.

JA.15.38 Regular Stockdog Judge (Hartnagle)

Approve: DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Gray, King, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Motion: DeChant

I make a motion to approve Jim Hartnagle to be moved to Regular Stockdog Judge as he has met the requirements and no letters from Members were received.

JA.15.39 Provisional Stockdog Judge (Conroy)

Approve: DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Gray, King, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Motion: DeChant

I make a motion to approve Deb Conroy to be moved to Provisional Stockdog Judge as she has met the requirements and no letters from Members were received.

From the Foundation

FD.15.05 Remove Canine Phenome Project from Foundation Policy Book

Approve: DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Gray, King, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Motion: Roberts

Second: DeChant

I make a motion to remove the reference, in the ASCA foundation policy book, to the Canine Phoneme Project as it no longer exists, and hasn't for over 5 years.

Currently reads -

4. Restricted Funds

The following categories are permanently held for dedicated use as noted by the donors.

- Epilepsy Research
- Canine Phoneme Project

Change to

4. Restricted Funds

The following categories are permanently held for dedicated use as noted by the donors.

- Epilepsy Research

FD.15.06 Add Rescue Grants to Foundation Policy Book

Approve: DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Gray, King, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Motion: Roberts

Second: DeChant

I make a motion to add a new section to the ASCA Foundation Policy book to outline the process for disbursing grants to rescue organizations.

Add a new section to the ASCA Foundation Policy Book

6. Rescue Grants

Thanks to a generous donation to the ASCA Foundation with funds marked for rescue, from the estate of Susan Youngblood, grants are now available to eligible rescue organizations. The funds will be granted in \$5000.00 increments, to 501(c)3 organizations that rescue primarily Australian Shepherds. Each organization can receive one grant per calendar year.

Applications are available from the ASCA Business Office, the Executive Secretary, and on the ASCA website.

6.1 Selection

The ASCA Foundation Board shall establish a committee, consisting of at least three of its Directors to review all Rescue Grant Applications. The committee will have 60 days in which to make a recommendation, on the grant, to the Board.

6.2 Distribution

Once a motion reflecting approval of the grant, mentioning the grantee's name, organization, and monetary amount is recorded within the Foundation minutes, the Business Office will remit the funds awarded.

Rationale: This is the process that we have been following with the rescue grants but, presently, it is not documented. This motion corrects that.

Committee Recommendations

SD.15.21 Chapter 27 Reorganization

Approve: DeChant, Gibson, King, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: Dolan

Abstain: Gray

MOTION CARRIES

Comment from Dolan: Most of this material duplicates material in the Committee Procedures. The sdc should reduce the content of this section to only the material not covered by the Committee

Procedures. Continuing the current approach can result in extra work by the SDC whenever there is a change to the Committee Procedures.

Comment from Wesen: I think this will need some revisions with the new board changes however I believe that the odd/even of judges needed to be adjusted.

Motion: Silveira

I move to accept the following recommendation from the Stock Dog Committee.

Results of the Stockdog Committee vote:

For: 11

Against: 1

Non-voting: 1

Comment against: This chapter still has flaws and need to be clear. Either the committee rules or how many members SDC can have.

Title: Chapter 27 Reorganization

Effective Date: June 1, 2016

I make a motion to replace the existing Chapter 27, The Stockdog Committee, with a reorganized, corrected Chapter 27.

Motion: Dan Sanderson

Second: Linda Bell

Rationale: The current Chapter 27 lists the old methods of selecting the committee. The proposed change has corrected the rule regarding the committee selection process. The selection year for Judges and contestants has been corrected to reflect the current years being used (odd years for Judges and even years for contestants). The rule has also been changed to state the selection process will no longer occur at the National Specialty, but will take place at the Spring Board Meeting. This proposal brings the rules into compliance with the Committee Procedures manual and creates a more coherent, logical chapter. The new Chapter 27 is more organized than the original, placing topics in a chronological order. Some of the information found in Chapter 27 is also found in the Committee Procedures manual, which may appear to be redundant, but the information is important and useful to the casual reader without necessitating searching multiple rule books. This redundancy is intentional and allows the general membership the ability to find most of the information regarding the Stockdog Committee in one place.

Current:

CHAPTER 27

ASCA STOCKDOG COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 – MEMBERSHIP

27.1.1 The Committee will consist of seven active ASCA trial contestants and five ASCA approved Stockdog Judges. One contestant shall be appointed from each of the seven geographic regions. One Judge shall be appointed from five of the seven geographic regions. Members from the same region(s) may be appointed if applicants from different regions are unavailable. Contestants may only fill the Contestant positions and Stockdog Judges may only fill the Judges positions on the committee.

27.1.2 A contestant member's term shall be for a two-year period beginning during National Specialty occurring in odd-numbered years. A Judge member's term shall be for a two-year period beginning during National Specialty occurring in even-numbered years. A committee member may be appointed in the middle of a term to serve for the remainder of that term. Mid-term vacancies will be announced in the Aussie Times. Resumes from ASCA members must be received by the Executive Secretary within a 45-day period following the publication date of the Aussie Times. All resumes will then be submitted to the Board of Directors who will choose an applicant to fill the vacancy.

27.1.3 When a person is appointed to a Stockdog Committee position as either a Judge or contestant, they will fulfill the appointed term for that position until it expires.

27.1.4 Regions

a. Region 1 – Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska.

b. Region 2 – California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah.

c. Region 3 – Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Provinces in Canada west of Ontario.

d. Region 4 – Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky.

e. Region 5 – Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma.

f. Region 6 – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington DC, and Provinces in Canada east of Manitoba.

g. Region 7 – All areas outside of North America.

SECTION 2 – GOALS

27.2.1 To maintain a professional Stockdog Program that is in the best interest of all concerned with perpetuating the Australian Shepherd's superior, versatile working ability.

27.2.2 Expanding the avenues of communication between the Stockdog Committee, the Board of Directors and all trial contestants and concerned owners so that interest and participation in the Stockdog Program will continue to grow.

27.2.3 Maintaining a receptive, professional attitude toward new ideas and suggestions that will be advantageous to the Stockdog Program.

SECTION 3 – STOCKDOG COMMITTEE DUTIES

All members of Stockdog Committee may vote on all matters dealing with the Stockdog Program as presented to the Committee. Examples of duties are as listed, but not limited to the following:

27.3.1 Review proposed revisions to existing rules.

27.3.2 Review new programs presented to it for consideration.

27.3.3 Submit its recommendations in a timely manner on every issue presented to the Committee from the Board of Directors back to the Board of Directors, which will make all final decisions.

27.3.4 Review all resumes of applicants to the Apprentice Stockdog Judge Program per Chapter 26 of these Rules and Regulations. The Stockdog Committee will review the prospective Apprentice Judge's resume to see that the applicant has the livestock knowledge and working dog background necessary to be a responsible Stockdog Judge.

27.3.5 A progress report will be sent to all Approved Judges and to any interested persons either directly or through the *Aussie Times*.

SECTION 4 – STOCKDOG COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

27.4.1 Committee members will serve a two-year term, except for the Chairperson, who is elected annually by the Stockdog Committee.

27.4.2 Committee members will be selected by the Board of Directors.

27.4.3 Expenses such as postage, printing, paper, envelopes, etc., will be paid for by ASCA.

27.4.4 The Stockdog Committee will select a Board Liaison each year. The status of the Liaison will be non-voting on issues before the Stockdog Committee. It will be the Liaison's responsibility to communicate issues between the Board of Directors and the Stockdog Committee in a timely fashion.

27.4.5 All Stockdog Committee votes will be published in the *Aussie Times* ASCA Secretary's Report and/or any approved ASCA e-mail list. Only the final count must be published.

Proposed:

CHAPTER 27

ASCA STOCKDOG COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 – GOALS

27.1.1 To maintain a professional Stockdog Program that is in the best interest of all concerned with perpetuating the Australian Shepherd's superior, versatile working ability.

27.1.2 Expanding the avenues of communication between the Stockdog Committee, the Board of Directors and all trial contestants and concerned owners so that interest and participation in the Stockdog Program will continue to grow.

27.1.3 Maintaining a receptive, professional attitude toward new ideas and suggestions that will be advantageous to the Stockdog Program.

SECTION 2 – STOCKDOG COMMITTEE DUTIES

27.2.1 All members of the Stockdog Committee may vote on all matters dealing with the Stockdog Program as presented to the Committee. Examples of duties are as listed, but not limited to the following:

a. Review proposed revisions to existing rules.

b. Review new programs presented for consideration.

c. Submit recommendations in a timely manner on every issue presented to the Committee from the Board of Directors back to the Board of Directors, which will make all final decisions.

d. Review all resumes of applicants to the Apprentice Stockdog Judge Program to verify they have met the requirements set forth in Chapter 26 of these Rules and Regulations.

e. Review all resumes of applicants to be sure they have sufficient livestock knowledge and a working dog background necessary to be a responsible, knowledgeable Stockdog Judge.

27.2.2 A progress report will be sent to all Approved Judges and to any interested persons either directly or through the *Aussie Times*.

SECTION 3 – MEMBERSHIP

27.3.1 The Board will appoint volunteers with Full ASCA memberships to Program Committees for a period of two years at the Spring Board of Directors' meeting.

27.3.2 Committee appointments are made through a Committee Liaison appointing motion (no second required) to the Board. The Liaison will notify the Chairperson of all appointments to the Committee.

27.3.3 The Committee will consist of seven active ASCA trial contestants and five ASCA approved Stockdog Judges.

a. One contestant shall be appointed from each of the seven geographic regions.

b. Judges shall be appointed from any geographic region.

c. Members from the same region(s) may be appointed if an applicant from a different region is unavailable.

d. Contestants may only fill the Contestant positions and Stockdog Judges may only fill the Judges positions on the committee.

27.3.4 When a person is appointed to a Stockdog Committee position as either a Judge or contestant, they will fulfill the appointed term for that position until it expires. If existing Committee members apply to remain on the committee after their term of service has expired, the Board may reappoint them during the Spring Board of Director's meeting.

- a. A contestant member's term shall be for a two-year period beginning during the Spring Board of Director's meeting occurring in even-numbered years.
 - b. A Judge member's term shall be for a two-year period beginning during the Spring Board of Director's meeting occurring in odd-numbered years.
- 27.3.5** The Board may also fill vacancies at other times during the year if deemed appropriate by the Committee Liaison. Mid-term vacancies will be announced in the Aussie Times.
- a. No action shall occur to fill the vacancy until at least 45 days after publication in the Aussie Times.
 - b. A committee member may be appointed in the middle of a term to serve for the remainder of that term.
 - c. The term of a Committee member appointed between Spring Board of Director meetings will expire at the first or second Spring Meeting following his/her appointment, coinciding with rule 27.3.4.a or 27.3.4.b.

SECTION 4 - REGIONS

REGION 1: WA, OR, ID, MT, AK

REGION 2: CA, NV, AZ, UT

REGION 3: CO, WY, NE, KS, ND, SD, MB, SK, AB, BC, YT, NT

REGION 4: MI, IA, IL, OH, WI, MN, IN, MO, KY

REGION 5: AR, LA, MS, AL, TN, NC, SC, GA, FL, TX, NM, OK

REGION 6: ME, NH, VT, NY, RI, MA, CT, PA, NJ, WV, VA, MD, DE, DC, ON, QC, NS, NB, PE, NF

REGION 7: EUROPE

SECTION 5 – STOCKDOG COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

27.5.1 Each year, the Committee shall hold an election of its Chair during the period of 30 days before to 30 days after the Board of Directors Spring Meeting.

- a. The Chair must have been a full ASCA Member in good standing for three consecutive years.
- b. The Chair must have served a minimum of one year on the Committee, but does not need to be currently serving on the committee to be elected to the Chair position.
- c. The Chair shall serve a one year term and may be reelected.

27.5.2 The Stockdog Committee will select a Board Liaison each spring after committee members have been appointed and a Chair has been elected. The status of the Liaison will be non-voting on issues before the Stockdog Committee. It will be the Liaison's responsibility to communicate issues between the Board of Directors and the Stockdog Committee in a clear and timely fashion.

27.5.3 All Stockdog Committee votes will be published in the ***Aussie Times*** ASCA Secretary's Report and/or any approved ASCA e-mail list. Only the final count must be published.

For more detailed information concerning committee procedures and responsibilities, refer to the ASCA Committee Procedure Manual found on the ASCA website.

Nationals Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, 2nd Vice President Rick Hardin, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Cindy King, Director Jean Roberts, Director Jan Wesen, Director-elect Laura Gibson, Director-elect Linda Gray, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, Judy Boone, Sherry Butler, Kathy Fretz, Mike Kurdzo

Absent: Director Rachel Vest

There is a quorum with 8 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting to order at 10:15 am Central Time.

Meeting with Agility Committee

Veteran Handlers

The committee requested to hear the Board's reasoning for recently voting down their recommendation to split the veteran division between dogs and handlers. Silveira stated he did not feel he had sufficient information on the motion to make an informed decision. He was not in favor of the language regarding disabled handlers; that is addressed in another section of the rules and should be removed here. Kissman stated that he was against the motion because of the qualifications for a title being based on the handler's needs and not the dogs. Agility is the only program that does that. The veteran class should be for dogs and not handlers. Dolan agreed with Silveira and Kissman. He stated that there was too much to the motion and it did not read well. Gibson stated that she is against a veteran handler division, and would only be in favor of a division for veteran dogs. Gray agreed. Wesen stated that she voted for the recent motion, but would be in favor of limiting the veteran division to dogs only. Hardin agreed with Kissman's sentiments. King stated that there should be a division for veteran handlers, but it should not lead to Finals. DeChant said that she was in favor of keeping the veteran handler division because there were a lot of members who wrote in and said they wanted it.

Dolan asked the committee how often is there a veteran handler running a dog in the veteran division under the age of 7? Sherry Butler said that this year there were 3 in Finals. Last year, 4th place in veteran Finals was a 6 year old dog. There are currently veteran handlers with young dogs competing against veteran dogs.

- Kathy Fretz left the meeting at 10:52 am.
- Pam Watson joined the meeting at 10:52 am.

Thank-You from Stockdog Finals Course Director

Pam Watson thanked the Board for volunteering during the Stockdog Finals. She requested a full-page ad in the Aussie Times to thank everyone for making this year's Stockdog Finals a success. The Board will consider and let her know by the end of the year.

- Pam Watson left the meeting at 10:55 am.

Meeting with Agility Committee, continued

All Breed Championship

The Board stated their reasons for turning down the committee's recommendation to create an annual all-breed championship held in conjunction with the ASCA Nationals. DeChant stated that she was against having it at the same time as Nationals. King agreed and said that it would be too much to add to the Host Club's plate. Judy Boone responded that it could be hosted like a pre-trial. Kissman questioned if it could be held on the Sunday following Nationals. Judy Boone responded that people would likely not stay for it then. Silveira said that if you do this for agility, other programs will follow. The recommendation was also brought to the Board in a huge package that was difficult to digest in the time allowed for discussion and voting. Gibson understands that other-breeds constitute 40% of ASCA agility

competitors at local trials, and she is sympathetic to their desire for a culminating event, but she does not support it being at ASCA's Nationals. She agreed with Silveira that the proposal was bloated and there was not enough time to adequately understand the consequences of the recommendation. Dolan stated that providing an all-breed championship is outside of ASCA's mission statement.

Judge Discipline

Judy Boone brought to the Board's attention a judge that has been canceling their assignments very soon before trials and is not representing ASCA well. The committee has discussed this; some want the judge suspended and some want their judging privileges removed completely. The committee is seeking the Board's advice in moving forward, as judge discipline is not within their scope. The committee should document incidents involving this judge and vote on what to do, then send it to the Board as a recommendation. It will then be up to the Board to act on the discipline or not. Kissman questioned why clubs continue to hire this judge if there are these kinds of issues. Mike Kurdzo responded that some clubs hire their judges far in advance of the trial and may not be aware of any issues at that time.

Trial Secretary Issue

Judy Boone brought up an issue with a trial secretary that is not submitting paperwork on time. This person has been hired by ASCA Affiliates to put on agility trials, so the Affiliate is ultimately responsible for the paperwork submission.

- Ray Fryar joined the meeting at 11:28 am.

ATCH Petition

The Board has received a petition to reinstate the ATCH invitation to agility Finals. DeChant expressed her dislike of petitions – the most honest way to communicate with the Board is to send a letter to the Executive Secretary. Silveira said that he voted against removing the invite because of the feedback from members; there seemed to be a disconnect between the committee and competitors. Kissman agreed with DeChant. He is in favor of being able to draw deeper from the alternate list to fill Finals. Sherry Butler said that not having trials in certain regions is a valid reason for keeping the invite, but by going deeper into the alternate list someone from Austria would have been invited this year.

Feedback from Competitors

The committee reminded the Board that they do extensive research before submitting a recommendation to the Board. They often do this at local trials. There are only 400 people on the ASCA Agility Enthusiasts list, but over 2000 people compete in ASCA agility. The committee listens to what the majority of competitors wants and tries to do what is best for ASCA agility. Just because a proposal may seem unpopular does not mean it isn't good for the program.

Agility Licensees

There was a brief discussion of the impact of having Agility Licensees in an area. Having more opportunities for agility should improve turn-out at Affiliate held agility trials. The purpose for the licensee program is lost, however, when you have Affiliates and licensees competing for exhibitors.

Finals Program Scoring

There was discussion about the program used for scoring agility Finals. The Board has requested that the committee investigate the top 2 programs and the Board will look into working out an agreement with the best to be required for Finals scoring.

- Judy Boone, Sherry Butler, and Mike Kurdzo left the meeting at 11:54 am.

Ratify September Email Votes

No discussion.

BD.15.105 Ratify September Email Votes

All present approve (Absent: Rachel); motion carries.

Motion: Kissman

Second: Wesen

I make a motion to ratify the Board's September email votes.

Treasurer's Report

Dolan presented the Treasurer's report through September 30. There is \$173,175.03 in the Chase Checking account; \$250,371.35 in the Chase Savings account; \$100.00 in the Chase Wire account; and \$174,128.95 in the Raymond James Investment account.

The Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2014 will appear in the November/December Aussie Times.

The Board reviewed a report comparing the Jan-Sep budget and actual numbers.

ASCA is in reasonable shape. Some of the differences in income/expenses are due to Nationals being held in November last year and October this year. Even though ASCA's insurance premium is higher, there were no payouts this year, and so that is why insurance expenses are down.

BD.15.106 September Treasurer's Report

All present approve (Absent: Rachel); motion carries.

Motion: Hardin

Second: Roberts

I move to approve the September Treasurer's Report as presented.

Dock Diving

Silveira brought up his concern that the National Association for Dock Diving is giving out certifications at their set-up at this year's Nationals. These certificates can be turned in to AKC and, for a fee, they will recognize it. Silveira said this is a violation of rule 3.3 in the conformation rules, which states that the Host Affiliate of an ASCA National Specialty shall not invite nor contract with another registry or any of its Affiliates other than a registry with which ASCA has an agreement to hold an event at any time during the Nationals or as a pre-show or trial. ASCA does not have an agreement with AKC.

- Rachel Vest joined the meeting by phone at 12:14 pm.

Dolan stated that the titles come from NADD, not AKC. If the exhibitor chooses to take that certificate and get it recognized by AKC after the fact, that is their prerogative and does not make having NADD here a violation of the rule. AKC recognizes their certificates, but they are not affiliated with AKC.

The Board was under the impression that they had approved NADD to do demonstrations only and not to give out certifications at all.

System Upgrade

Ray Fryar reported that FrogSlayer has hit the ground running and the project is going well. They are going more in depth to create the foundation for the project, and making sure everything is addressed early so they are not dealing with issues later. Fryar has access to everything FrogSlayer is doing and

they are not afraid to ask questions about what is needed. He is anticipating a roll-out for the full demo in February or March 2016. Everything is operating within the budget.

- Peter Kontos joined the meeting at 12:38 pm.

Finals Program Scoring

Vest brought up that there have been recent issues with the programs for scoring Finals and that perhaps the new system could provide a solution to that. Fryar said that inputting Finals' scores was not part of the original proposal, but it could be added as another module. We need to have the same functionality for Finals that Affiliates will have for their local shows. Our system needs to be able to receive data from whatever scoring program is used.

- Ray Fryar left the meeting at 12:50 pm.

Dock Diving, continued

The Board met with Peter Kontos to discuss their concerns with NADD offering certificates instead of simply conducting a demonstration. In going over what the Board originally approved they realized that the proposal did state that NADD would be giving out certificates. The Board agreed that while they misunderstood what they approved, it still stands that they approved it and will allow NADD to continue as they planned.

The Board discussed that it may be necessary to remove the rule in question here as it is no longer necessary, and is often not followed.

DeChant called the meeting suspended at 1:03 pm.

Board Meeting, continued

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Cindy King, Director Jean Roberts, Director Rachel Vest (by phone), Director Jan Wesen, Director-elect Laura Gibson, Director-elect Linda Gray, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

Absent: 2nd Vice President Rick Hardin

There is a quorum with 8 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The Board received a complaint against an exhibitor during the conformation Finals. All involved were interviewed and the Board found that there had been no violation of the conformation rules. The complaint was dismissed.

BD.15.107 Dismiss 2015 Finals Complaint

All present approve (Absent: Hardin, Silveira, Vest); motion carries.

Motion: King

Second: Wesen

I make a motion not to proceed with the complaint. There was no violation of 7.6 or 9.10. On advice of Counsel, the Judges Code of Ethics is not to be used as basis for a complaint.

DeChant called the meeting postponed at 9:00 pm.

Board Meeting, continued

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, 2nd Vice President Rick Hardin, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Director Cindy King, Director Jean Roberts, Director Jan Wesen, Director-elect Laura Gibson, Director-elect Linda Gray, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

Absent: Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Rachel Vest

There is a quorum with 7 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting resumed at 9:00 am.

System Liaison

BD.15.108 System Liaison (Bryant, Vest)

All present approve (Absent: Silveira, Vest); motion carries.

Motion: Hardin

Second: Kissman

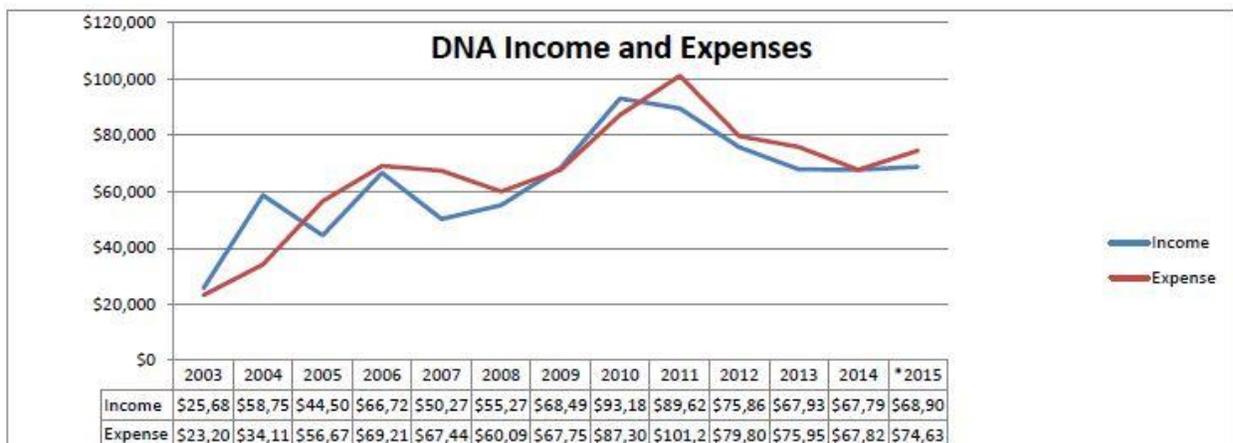
I move to appoint Allison Bryant as System Liaison and Rachel Vest as Board Liaison to the System Liaison.

Rule Book Printings

There is no need for a January printing of any rule books. New rule books will be printed in June 2016.

Revisit 2014 DNA Fee Increase

Dolan proposed that we raise the fee for DNA tests from \$41 to \$45 for blood and from \$46 to \$50 for swabs. This is in order to match income with expenses, due to an increase in ASCA's costs after last year's new contract with Therion. The fee paid by members covers the cost of kits, processing, and storage.



BD.15.109 Raise DNA Fees

All present approve (Absent: Silveira, Vest); motion carries.

Motion: Kissman

Second: Roberts

I make a motion that we increase the DNA fee from \$41 to 45 for blood and from \$46 to \$50 for swabs. Effective January 1, 2016.

Revisit 2014 Finals Entry Fee Decrease

Dolan suggested we leave the Finals entry fees where they are at, which is \$60 across the board. Keeping the fees consistent and getting three years' worth of data would provide for more information for the Board to revisit at the 2016 Nationals.

- Ken Silveira joined the meeting at 9:13 am.

Several Finals did not fill this year, and the Board discussed the option of going deeper on the alternate list to prevent that from happening. It was also suggested that if they continue not to fill we decrease the number invited.

Spring Board Meeting Dates

The Board will meet at the ASCA Business Office in Bryan, Texas, from Thursday, April 7 to Saturday, April 9.

Nationals Meeting Dates

The Board discussed when would be the best days to meet during the 2016 Nationals. They will revisit when the schedule is more set. The Board has suggested to the Host Club that they move Finals around so they are not all on the same 2 days.

Rename Tracking Number Program

There is often confusion between the tracking program and the program that offers tracking for dogs that are not registered with ASCA. Ray Fryar has proposed that we change the name of the tracking number program. Gray suggested QT for Q Tracker.

BD.15.110 Rename Tracking Number Program to QT

All present approve (Absent: Vest); motion carries.

Motion: Roberts

Second: King

I make a motion to rename the tracking number program to QT for Q Tracker. Effective January 1, 2016.

Breeder Directory

There used to be a directory of Aussie breeders on the ASCA Website. The list ended up attracting a high-volume breeders and it was shut down. It was also a manually done word document that was difficult to update. No matter what disclaimer was placed with the list, it was also assumed by those who read the directory that these breeders had the endorsement of ASCA. Ray Fryar suggested bringing the directory back, as he receives a lot of calls at the Office requesting breeder recommendations. Instead of ASCA having a directory, the Office should be directing callers to their local Affiliate for a recommendation. There is also information on the ASCA website on finding a breeder. The Board was

also not comfortable publishing a list of breeders, which could be seen as a target list for misguided animal rights activists. It is the consensus of the Board not to restart the breeder directory.

Year-End Junior Scholarship Awards

King has been brainstorming with Brandon Smith to develop year-end scholarship or monetary awards for the top juniors in each program. There has been a lot of back-and-forth, but no concrete proposals. Not all kids go to college, so a scholarship could be inappropriate. King will get with Counsel to discuss whether this can come from the Foundation.

The Board discussed the differences in year-end awards for each program for juniors. Agility is currently not included. Showmanship, obedience, and rally are cumulative. Stockdog is averaged. In agility, the juniors compete in their own division with more time and lower jump heights. The dogs receive “junior” titles, which do not carry over when the junior ages out. In obedience, the juniors need to meet the same requirements as other exhibitors but are classified as a “junior.” The Board favors the way obedience deals with juniors and would like other programs to follow suit.

The Board would also like to see 500 club type rewards for each program.

BD.15.111 Directive to Agility and Junior Committees re: Year End Awards

All present approve (Absent: Vest); motion carries.

Motion: King

Second: Hardin

I move to direct the Agility and Junior Committees to work together to create a junior agility program for year-end awards for junior participants that mirrors obedience and rally.

BD.15.112 Directive to Stockdog and Agility Committees re: Year End Awards

All present approve (Absent: Vest); motion carries.

Motion: Hardin

Second: King

Stockdog and Junior Committees to work together to alter the junior stockdog program for year-end awards for junior participants that mirrors obedience and rally.

2016 Finals Judging Slate

The Board briefly reviewed the slate of judges for the 2016 Finals. The requirements need to be checked and the Board will revisit during their Thursday meeting.

Affiliate Bylaws

BD.15.113 UMASC Bylaw Revisions

All present approve (Absent: Vest); motion carries.

Motion: Dolan

Second: Wesen

I move to approve the Upper Midwest ASC’s proposed bylaw revisions.

The Board discussed the process for approving Affiliates and realized a mistake in the process.

BD.15.114 New Affiliate Approval

All present approve (Absent: Vest); motion carries.

Motion: Hardin

Second: Roberts

I make a motion to amend section 4.3 in the Policy Book as below.

Change from:

4.3 New Affiliate Bylaw Review

The ASCA Business Office shall review all new Affiliate Club applicants' Bylaws prior to their being voted upon by the ASCA Board. They will ensure the correct Bylaw template was used, check to make sure all officers and directors are full ASCA members and all the required application information and fees are correct. Once the Office is satisfied all the requirements have been met, the new Affiliate Club application will be forward to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Board (for information).

Change to:

4.3 New Affiliate Bylaw Review

The ASCA Business Office shall review all new Affiliate Club applicants' Bylaws prior to their being voted upon by the ASCA Board. They will ensure the correct Bylaw template was used, check to make sure all officers and directors are full ASCA members and all the required application information and fees are correct. Once the Office is satisfied all the requirements have been met, the new Affiliate Club application will be forward to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Board **for Board approval**.

Definition of "Contact" with a Judge

The Board needs to discuss this with Counsel.

Junior Handling Dog Bred by Judge

The Board discussed whether it is acceptable for a junior to show a dog that was bred by the judge in the junior showmanship class. Even though junior showmanship is the judging of the handler and not the dog, the conformation rules (which cover any topic not specifically covered in the junior rules – such as this) state that no dog that is bred by the judge shall be shown to them. Ultimately, it is up to the discretion of the judge whether they excuse the junior or not. Judges cannot be forced into a situation that makes them uncomfortable.

Double Merle Breeding Facts

There are several updates that need to be made to the breeding facts section of the ASCA Website. Jaco will make up a draft and send out to the Board for future review.

DeChant called the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Board Meeting, continued (post GMM)

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: Director Ann DeChant, Director Pete Dolan, Director Laura Gibson, Director Linda Gray, Director Cindy King, Director Preston Kissman, Director Ken Silveira, Director Jan Wesen, Director Rachel Vest (by phone), Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, Office Manager Ray Fryar

There is a quorum with 9 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting to order at 9:53 pm.

Election of Officers

Gibson nominated DeChant for President. No other nominees. **Ann DeChant is elected President** by acclamation.

DeChant nominated Kissman for 1st Vice President. No other nominees. **Preston Kissman is elected 1st Vice President** by acclamation.

Vest nominated Gibson for 2nd Vice President. No other nominees. **Laura Gibson is elected 2nd Vice President** by acclamation.

Gibson nominated Silveira for Secretary. No other nominees. **Ken Silveira is elected Secretary** by acclamation.

Gray nominated Dolan for Treasurer. No other nominees. **Pete Dolan is elected Treasurer** by acclamation.

Dolan nominated Fryar for Election Secretary. No other nominees. **Ray Fryar is elected Election Secretary** by acclamation.

Gray nominated Jaco for Executive Secretary. No other nominees. **Kalla Jaco is elected Executive Secretary** by acclamation.

Dolan nominated Fryar for Membership Secretary. No other nominees. **Ray Fryar is elected Membership Secretary** by acclamation.

Dispute Rules Education Committee

The Board formed a committee to create training and education tools for ASCA's Dispute Rules. These tools would better help Members and Affiliates understand the Dispute process and their parts. The committee is made up of DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Gray, and Vest.

DeChant called the meeting adjourned at 10:04 pm.

Foundation Meeting Minutes (post GMM)

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, 2nd Vice President Laura Gibson, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Linda Gray, Director Cindy King, Director Jan Wesen, Director Rachel Vest (by phone), Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

There is a quorum with 9 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting to order at 10:04 pm.

FD.15.07 Foundation Officers

All present approve; motion carries.

Motion: Vest

Second: Gray

I move to accept all Officers of ASCA as the Officers of the ASCA Foundation.

DeChant called the meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm.

Board Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, 2nd Vice President Laura Gibson, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Linda Gray, Director Cindy King, Director Jan Wesen, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, Karen Black

Absent: Director Rachel Vest

There is a quorum with 8 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting to order at 11:49 am.

Meeting with Rally Committee Chair

The Board met with Karen Black, Chair of the Rally Committee. Several of the Rally Finals judges listed on the first draft of the 2016 Nationals premium have not met the requirements to judge Finals. She suggested that when Host Clubs contact judges, they be sure to ask if they all meet the requirements listed in the rules. It was suggested that Rally look into conducting a random draw for Finals judges, like is done for agility and stockdog. The committee can also come up with a list of qualified judges for the Host Club to choose from.

There was discussion on how the committee utilizes course reviewers. The Board suggested that the rally committee look at how the agility course reviewers operate. The committee should recruit members that can help them with this and should work with the Board on who should or should not be reinstated in spring 2017.

- Karen Black left the meeting at 12:14 pm.

Meeting Attendance

Gray brought up the requirement that Directors attend all meetings of the Board while at Nationals. In the past, outgoing-Directors have not attended the meeting of the Board following the General Membership Meeting, which is when they are officially “off” the Board. In the future, all Directors (including incoming and outgoing) will be required and expected to attend all Board meetings for their full duration.

2016 Finals Judges

The Board reviewed the slate of judges proposed for the 2016 Finals in Albany, Oregon. Wesen reported that the 3 of the 4 rally judges do not meet the requirements to judge Finals. There was also not listed a third judge for agility.

BD.15.115 2016 Nationals & Finals Judges (Less Agility and Rally)

Approve: DeChant, Dolan, Gray, Gibson, King, Kissman, Wesen; Disapprove: 0; Abstain: Silveira, Vest; motion carries.

Motion: King

Second: Gibson

I move to approve the slate of judges for the 2016 Nationals & Finals, less agility and rally.

Conformation Finals: Ms. Sheila Polk, Ms. Tiffany Levin, Mr. Alan McCorkle

Junior Handling Finals: Mrs. Kendra Winans

Obedience Finals: Mrs. Lora Cox, Mr. Alvin Eng

Stockdog Finals: Ms. Joan Carrillo, Mr. Preston Kissman, Mrs. Marie Murphy, Mrs. Maxine Schvaneveldt, Mrs. Sharon Simmons & Mrs. Jan Wesen

Nationals Best of Breed: Mrs. Joni Monney-McKeown

Nationals Intact Dogs: Mrs. Becky DeLeon

Nationals Intact Bitches: Ms. Andrea Blizard

Nationals Altered: Mrs. Debra St. Jacques

Nationals Non-Regular (WTCH & Stockdog): Mrs. Debra St. Jacques

Nationals Non-Regular (Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Breeder Showcase, Brace, Veterans, Puppies Best Bred By Exhibitor & overflow): Mrs. Sue Holtz

Nationals Non-Regular (Puppy Sweepstakes & Veteran Sweepstakes: Ms. Nancy Pelletier

MVA & MVJ: Mr. Maarten Walter

Nationals Junior Handling: Mrs. Sarah Whitmey

National Obedience Trial: Mr. Chris Cornell & Ms. Carolyn Wray

Nationals Ducks: Mrs. Maxine Schvaneveldt

Nationals Sheep: Mrs. Kathy Warren

Nationals Cattle: Mr. Brad Warren

Nationals Tracking Test: Mrs. Melody Fair & Mr. Roy Fair

- Rhonda Silveira, Regi Bryant, and Sarah Roth joined the meeting at 12:39 pm.

Meeting with 2016 Nationals Show Committee

Directors shared with the show committee their suggested changes/edits to the first draft of the 2016 Nationals premium. There was discussion about creating a premium template for the Host Club to use. Typically, the club uses the premium from the year before and personalizes it. Dolan suggested the premium begin with the statement "This event will be held under the ASCA rules, except as noted herein." That way, the premium only needs to contain rules that are a deviation from the standard. The Board requested that the committee look into moving around Finals; it is currently heavily loaded on Monday.

- Rhonda Silveira, Regi Bryant, and Sarah Roth left the meeting at 1:44 pm.

DeChant called the meeting suspended until 2:45 pm, for a lunch break.

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, 2nd Vice President Laura Gibson, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Cindy King, Director Jan Wesen, Director Rachel Vest (by phone), Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

Absent: Director Linda Gray

There is a quorum with 8 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting resumed at 3:00 pm.

Standardize Finals

There is a committee that is working on standardizing Finals and looking into hiring a qualified person to manage Finals each year. The committee is comprised of DeChant, Dolan, Gibson, Vest, and Wesen.

Exhibitor Conduct

The Board discussed adding a section regarding exhibitor conduct to each of the program rules. It would be similar to 1.11 in the conformation rules. They clarified that the judge is the absolute authority within the ring or arena; the show committee is responsible for anything outside of that, but on the show grounds. A judge or a show committee can remove an exhibitor for unsportsmanlike conduct. It would then be up to the Board to take any disciplinary action beyond that. The Board discussed returning to a series of set punishments for certain infractions. For example, if you receive three warning letters you will be suspended for 6 months.

A committee of DeChant, Dolan, and Gibson was formed to come up with a proposal for the Board.

Judge Conduct

The Board discussed what happens with Judge Evaluations when they are turned in to the Office and how they are later accessed in case the Board needs to review. It was suggested that all Judge Evaluations be sent to the Executive Secretary for central filing and easy access by the Board.

DeChant made a motion to have all Judge Evaluations sent to the Executive Secretary to be put in individual files; it was seconded by Wesen. The motion was approved (Disapprove: Dolan, Abstain: Vest, Absent: Gray), but was later unanimously (Absent: Gray) rescinded in favor of a more comprehensive motion.

Silveira made a motion to have the Executive Secretary forward all Judge Evaluations to the appropriate committee chair; it was seconded by DeChant. The motion was approved unanimously (Absent: Gray), but was later rescinded after further discussion.

BD.15.116 Judge Evaluations to Executive Secretary

All present approve (Absent: Gray); motion carries.

Motion: Gibson

Second: Wesen

I make a motion that all Judge Evaluations Forms received at the Business Office be sent to the Executive Secretary to file in individual files. Negative comments will be brought to the attention of the Board. This removes requirement 9.3 in the Policy Book – remainder of chapter 9 to be renumbered. Effective when passed by the Board, to be revisited at the 2016 Spring Meeting.

Questions from Members

The Board will issue a reminder to the Office that they are not to interpret the rules when answering questions from members. They are to refer members to the appropriate committee.

Executive Director

Directors shared their thoughts on whether they believe ASCA needs an Executive Director, whether it can afford one, and whether it would be prepared for one. Hiring an Executive Director would require a long-term commitment from an ever changing Board and a restructuring of ASCA's Bylaws. There is a committee that was formed earlier this year and they have discussed all of these concerns, as well as the benefits, like fundraising. The Board has asked this committee to come up with a final recommendation for the Board on whether hiring an Executive Director is in ASCA's best interest.

Purpose of Finals

The Board discussed what the purpose of Finals is and whether it has strayed from that or not. Silveira said that the purpose was to gather everyone together who was doing well at that level and have an ultimate competition for who was at the top that year. The first Finals was for Junior Showmanship.

Gibson believes that it lessens the specialness of Finals by inviting alternates until you fill all 30 spots. She thinks there should be top 30 and 10 alternates only. Some Directors commented that Finals has become all about self-promotion and they are potentially damaging to the organization. Other Directors commented that Finals give competitors a year-end goal and spurs participation in programs.

Therion Certification

Wesen brought up her request from the spring Board meeting that Therion be certified in some area of life sciences.

DeChant called the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Affiliate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Cindy King, Director Jean Roberts, Director Jan Wesen, Director Rachel Vest (via phone), Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

Absent: 2nd Vice President Rick Hardin, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Director-elect Laura Gibson, Director-elect Linda Gray

There are 7 voting members of the Board present.

DeChant called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm Central Time.

Dispute Rules

DeChant read aloud the Dispute Rules info sheet.

Urgent Disputes deal with issues that affect the outcome of the event. Anything else qualifies as Ordinary and should be handled according to those procedures. When an Urgent Complaint is received, the best thing for the Affiliate to do is stop the show and deal with it immediately. Affiliates may not deny a member the Complaint Form at the show, and must accept properly filed complaints.

Jerry Aufox suggested the Board designate a person, such as the Show Secretary, to be the recipient of the complaint. That may prevent the complaint from being mishandled. It was also suggested to have a signature line where the person who received the complaint would sign for receipt.

Agility Licensees

Jerry Aufox questioned the process by which Agility Licensees sanction trials. Some Affiliate clubs do not have set dates for their trials and are running into conflicts with local Licensees. Licensees are bound by ASCA's rules and they only need to inform an Affiliate of their trial if they are outside of their own area or would like to host a trial on dates that the Affiliate has used in the past 2 years.

Affiliate Boundaries

The Board and members present spent time discussing Affiliate areas and boundaries. Some boundaries need to be geographic – for example, mountain ranges separating areas.

- Gray joined the meeting at 6:41 pm.

New Affiliates

Denise Creelman suggested that Affiliates be contacted when there is a new Affiliate requesting approval in their area – just as a courtesy.

It was requested that the Board consider limiting the number of Affiliates allowed in an area. Too many Affiliates in one area could cause issues between the clubs, but may also simply provide more show opportunities for exhibitors.

Affiliate Insurance

Jerry Schetterer questioned whether each Affiliate needs to have its own insurance for holding events. The answer is yes. The insurance policy does not cover ASCA members or participants; only spectators and non-members. It is recommended that Affiliates obtain their own insurance policy to cover Affiliate members and participants of the event. If your Affiliate needs a recommendation, please contact the Business Office.

Affiliates also need to be added as additional named insureds every time they sanction a show. It was suggested that it be required for Affiliates to fill out the Insurance Request Form when they do their sanctioning, so that this is not mistakenly overlooked.

Updated Judges List

Denise Creelman requested that the Judges List be updated to reflect deceased and no longer active judges. It is hard to take someone off without their personal permission unless there is proof that they are no longer judging for whatever reason.

Other Registry Judges

There was question about whether a judge from another registry that has been recognized by ASCA can continue to judge in ASCA if their license has lapsed with the registry they were originally brought in through.

DeChant called the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

ASCA National Specialty – Shelbyville, TN

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, 2nd Vice President Rick Hardin, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Cindy King, Director Jean Roberts, Director Rachel Vest (via phone), Director Jan Wesen, Director-elect Laura Gibson, Director-elect Linda Gray, Office Manager Ray Fryar, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, Jerry Aufox, Ariane M. Bailey, Ronnie Bates, Michelle Berryessa, Karen Black, Judy Boone, Linda Braun, Megan Brown, Regina Lee Bryant, Pamela Bryant-Meeks, Lizette Busquets, Sherry Butler, Teri L. Crawford, Denise Creelman, Jessica Davis, Shawna M. Davis, Kathryn A. Dawson, Bob Dusek, Sue Florek, Cindy A. Franks, Kathy Fretz, Elizabeth Gibson, Jennifer L. Green, Virginia Guingrich, Gull Gullicksen, Nikki Heep, Darla Huffman, Janine Kester, Wayne Kirby, Arthur Landry, Carol Landry, Elizabeth A MacLehose, Tom Mhire, Sunday L. Miles, Michelle Morgan, Rick Morgan, Terri Morgan, Margaret Mutryn, Marie Nagano, Ron Niemzyk, Corey Norman, Robbi A. Norman, Jackie Oricko, Cheryl Padgett, Charla Patterson, William Pechka-King, Mary Quam, Heather Reed, Christine E. Reedy, Catherine Renkema, David Renkema, Sarah Roth, Laurie Rubin, Maxine

Schvaneveldt, Anne M. Shope, Rhonda Silveira, Dawna Sims, Megan Sims, Chuck Spriggs, Karen Spriggs, Debra St. Jaques, Leah Swatko, Glenda Teaff, Larry Teaff, Debra Thom, Mary Katharine Viles, Kelly F. Walsh, and Betty Williams.

There are 9 voting members of the Board present.

Prior to the meeting, the membership was addressed by Allen Pitner, CEO of Shelbyville & Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. He was very appreciative of our being here and the impact we have had this week on their local economy.

DeChant called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm Central Time.

DeChant thanked the Host Club for their tireless work and the many volunteers who have stepped up to help with all of the events this year. This is ASCA's annual showcase for our breed, and a reunion for many of us. Thank you to all who made this a success.

Introduction of Officers/Directors/Staff

The official election results were announced. The Board bids farewell to Rick Hardin and Jean Roberts. Thank you for your years of service and passion for ASCA. The Board welcomes Laura Gibson for her first term as a Director, and welcomes back Ann DeChant and Linda Gray.

Your ASCA Board of Directors for 2015-2016 is: Ann DeChant, Pete Dolan, Laura Gibson, Linda Gray, Cindy King, Preston Kissman, Ken Silveira, Rachel Vest, and Jan Wesen.

DeChant introduced Ray Fryar, ASCA's Office Manager, and Kalla Jaco, the Board's Executive Secretary. Heidi Mobley, ASCA's Webmaster, was not in attendance, but she was thanked for all that she does to maintain ASCA's online presence and appearance. The AussENews has been wonderful for getting information to the membership outside of the Aussie Times. Note: If you do not receive the AussENews in your email, then you need to update your email address with the Business Office. Online advertising has been a big hit and Mobley is working on a revised website that will go with our new system.

Last Year's Minutes

Jaco summarized the minutes from last year's General Membership Meeting. You can read them in full on the ASCA Website here: <http://www.asca.org/Portals/0/natmeeting2014.pdf>

Sunday Miles made a motion to approve the summary of the minutes from the 2014 General Membership Meeting; it was seconded by Liz Gibson. All present approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dolan presented the Treasurer's Report to the membership. It is a 9 month summary. ASCA's fiscal year runs from January to December, and so it would be imprudent for Dolan to speculate on the remaining month's financials in order to present a full year's report at this meeting. A summary that covers January to December based on the 2014 Audit will be available in the November/December Aussie Times.

Please see the Board meeting minutes from Nationals for details from the Treasurer's Report.

Dolan provided copies of the 2014 Audit for those who were interested to review. If you would like your own copy you may contact the Business Office. If you would like a copy of ASCA's 990 tax form you may contact the Business Office.

Leah Swatko questioned what could be done to invest money into short or long term accounts. Dolan responded that we have money invested in the Raymond James account. The Board will consider further investment opportunities.

Larry Teaff questioned what the expected cost of the computer system upgrade is. Ray Fryar responded that the estimate was \$250,000-\$275,000, and it is expected to stay within that range.

Ronnie Bates questioned if the Board had considered taking out a loan to pay for the upgrade instead of using what is in reserve. He pointed out that ASCA might get a better return and hold on to its reserves longer. Dolan responded that the Board had not considered that and preferred to use what we have instead of getting tied into a loan.

Leah Swatko made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; it was seconded by Jerry Aufox. All present approved.

Computer System Upgrade

Ray Fryar gave the membership an update on the progress with the system upgrade being done by FrogSlayer. The company is local, which allows Fryar to work closely with them. They are a few months into the process and are working on the foundation for the system now and will build out from there. This will not just be a simple database; it will be an integrated, web-based, user-friendly program.

Jerry Aufox questioned if the old system will be run side-by-side for a time with the new. Fryar said that there will be a complete switch over, so when the new system is live the old system will stop. There will be a demo period where the information is dumped and any issues will be addressed.

Leah Swatko questioned if Judges will be able to login and access their file, such as past judging assignments. Fryar explained that currently judging assignments are "notes" and not easily put into the database. He is working on figuring out how best to incorporate.

Ronnie Bates asked for clarification on what Phase 1 and Phase 2 are. Fryar answered that Phase 1 is the database project. Phase 2 is anything that we come across that wasn't included in the original proposal.

Ronnie Bates questioned how the requirements are going to be maintained to ensure we are getting what was asked for in the RFP. Fryar responded that this is part of testing the system in house and making sure everything works in line with the RFP.

Ronnie Bates asked how many mock conversions are going to be done before doing the full switch over to the new system. Fryar responded that they will do as many as needed for them to be confident that the system can go live with no hang-ups.

Random Draw for 2017 Stockdog Finals Judges

The random draw for 2017 Stockdog Finals Judges was conducted by Ray Fryar. He drew names out of a hat held by Pete Dolan in the following order:

1. Cheryl Padgett
2. Wayne Kirby
3. Tony Padgett
4. James Bergert
5. Rachel Vest
6. Joan Carillo
7. Ken Lyle
8. Marie Murphy

9. Tanya Wheeler
10. Rick Hardin
11. Russ Ford
12. Brad Warren
13. David Clayton

Committee Reports

Agility Committee Report:

Judy Boone, Chair of the Agility Committee gave the report.

“First, many thanks to Jean Roberts for her help and guidance as our Agility Liaison. We wish her well on her new adventure in life and we thank Laura Gibson for accepting the position as our new Liaison. ASCA agility continues to grow. In the last ASCA trial year, we saw an increase in both shows and dogs entered.

379 shows – an increase of 16 shows from the previous year.

2,660 dogs competing – increase of 96 dogs.

ASCA awarded 4,169 titles – 40% of those titles were earned by other breeds.

We have welcomed 1 approved judge, Jan Wesen; 2 apprentice judges, Jeff Hayes and Sherry Butler; and currently have our first judging applicants from Europe.

ASCA has also welcomed 3 new Agility Licensees and one new Affiliate dedicated to ASCA agility.”

Here are your Agility Committee representatives:

Chair: Judy Boone (OH)

REGION 1: Carol McQuade (MT), Chet Katwyk (WA)

REGION 2: Sherry Butler (AZ), Sue Graham (CA)

REGION 3: Gary Shipley (CO)

REGION 4:

REGION 5: Andrea Hoffmann (TN), Robin McNeill (FL), Betty Jaco (TX)

REGION 6: Kathy Fretz (VT), Michael Kurdzo (CT)

REGION 7: Emma Sandfjord (SE)

Conformation Committee Report:

Liz Gibson, Chair of the Conformation Committee gave the report.

“Hello from the Conformation Committee. I hope everyone has been enjoying themselves at this year’s National Specialty.

Our Yearly Title Report is as follows:

From 6/1/13 to 5/31/14 ASC had 710 Conformation shows. During this timeframe we had 48 New Altered Champions and 293 New Intact Champions.

From 6/1/14 to 5/31/15 ASCA had 670 Conformation Shows. During this timeframe we had 39 New Altered Champions and 225 New Intact Champions.

The Committee have worked very hard over the past year to make clear and needed rule revisions.

We have a lot more work ahead of us on certain rules and definitions.

The Conformation Committee created a Facebook page this year, where all of our motions are posted for membership input. This is in addition to the ASCA Conformation Committee Electronic Newsletter via Yahoo. Please join either or both groups to keep informed on motions under discussion.

You, the members of ASCA, can help the Conformation Committee by giving us your input or by giving us a suggestion for a new rule or a clarification of a current rule. We ask for and encourage your help.”

Here are your Conformation Committee representatives:

Chair: Liz Gibson (OR)

REGION 1: Nina Scott (WA), Debbie Martin (WA), Sue Holtz (ID), Kathy Remington (OR)

REGION 2: Regi Bryant (CA), Lisa Renville (CA)

REGION 3:

REGION 4: Sunday Miles (MI)

REGION 5: Dorothy Montano (NM)

REGION 6: Linda Braun (NY), Peter Kontos (NY), Mish Morgan (NY)

REGION 7: Mary Hellmeister (DE), Svenja Hagedorn (DE)

DNA Committee Report:

There was no one from the committee there to report. DeChant said they are working with Therion to come up with member education on DNA testing closely line-bred dogs.

Here are your DNA Committee representatives:

Chair: Peter Hellmeister (DE)

REGION 1: Gina Larson (ID), Tanya Barker (WA)

REGION 2: Tricia Alexander (CA), Carol McLaughlin (CA)

REGION 3: Marilyn Ballard (BC), Joan Holmes (AB), Pam Arlitt (BC)

REGION 4:

REGION 5: Carol Harvey (TX)

REGION 6: Linda Gray (RI)

REGION 7: Mary Hellmeister (DE)

Hall of Fame Committee Report:

There was no one from the committee there to report. DeChant said they surveyed the Stockdog Committee about adding Farm Trial titles to Hall of Fame qualifications. The consensus did not seem to be in favor. If you have an opinion or any suggestions, please write to the Chair, Dorothy Montano.

Here are your Hall of Fame Committee representatives:

Chair: Dorothy Montano (NM)

REGION 1: Gina Larson (ID)

REGION 2:

REGION 3: Sharon Elkins (CO)

REGION 4:

REGION 5: Robin McNeill (FL)

REGION 6:

REGION 7:

History Committee Report:

Sunday Miles, Chair of the History Committee, gave the report. See hard copy report.

Lifetime Achievement Award recipient: Linda Gray

Here are your History Committee representatives:

Chair: Sunday Miles (MI)

REGION 1: Elizabeth Lockwood (ID)

REGION 2:

REGION 3:

REGION 4: Robbi Norman (MI)
REGION 5: Jeanne Joy Hartnagle (TN)
REGION 6:
REGION 7:

Junior Committee Report:

Regi Bryant, Chair of the Junior Committee, gave the report.

“First, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Junior Committee members for volunteering their service on this committee. We’d also like to thank our liaison, Ken Silveira for his support and for agreeing to be our liaison once again next year.

We are well into the 2015-16 show year and are happy to report we’ve been fairly busy over the past few months discussing several motions. We had a couple of motions come back to the committee for more discussion: one was the Pee-Wee motion and lowering the age back to “0” and the other was fixing the current patterns and omitting a few. After much feedback, we realize that several of the patterns are unclear because of the diagram and the description. These are currently being worked on within the committee and will hopefully be complete before the beginning of the next show year.

We have offered our help to the Conformation Committee for their Judge’s Education Seminar so that judges are more educated in how to judge juniors, since feedback from them has suggested that many of our breeder judges aren’t too comfortable judging juniors. We are also having a Juniors Seminar again this year, which was supposed to be tonight but unfortunately had to be rescheduled because of the lateness of the day.

We have added a couple of new members to the committee this year and are thrilled to have each and every member on board. We would like any other interested parties (Juniors and Adults alike) to submit resumes to ASCA’s Executive Secretary, Kalla Jaco.

If there are any questions, we are always happy to answer them. The committee also loves input from members and would love to hear from you!”

Here are your Junior Committee representatives:

Chair: Regi Hall (CA)

REGION 1: Mathew Roth (OR), Noah Martin (WA), Sarah Roth (OR), Bryn Elliott (ID)

REGION 2: Andrea Bair (CA), Donalyn Shock (UT), Jacob McKervey (UT)

REGION 3:

REGION 4:

REGION 5: Heidi Mobley (TX)

REGION 6:

REGION 7: Svenja Hagedorn (DE)

Legislative Committee Report:

Sunday Miles, Member of the Legislative Committee, gave the report.

“Our Committee Chair is Susan Beals. Our other committee members are, in no particular order, Darcy Gardiner, Sunday Miles, and Patricia Wolfe.

The committee welcomes ideas, comments or suggestions. Please feel free to contact any of the committee members at any time.

The big news for last year’s Nationals was the KODA lawsuit which attempted to get an injunction against implementation of the Retail Pet Store Rule – animal rights-inspired regulations that will have many consequences for the small home-based breeders who make up a lot of our membership. We want to thank ASCA for their contribution towards this effort as well as all the various other

organizations and individuals who also participated. As I am sure you are aware, the suit was not successful. KODA and the attorneys, after much discussion, decided not to appeal the decision. From what I have been able to find out, there seems to be little enforcement happening with regard to the Retail Pet Store Rule at this time. This lack of enforcement proceedings is probably due in large part to the 2014 Farm Bill which made some amendments to the Animal Welfare Act. APHIS was directed to complete a rulemaking to come up with a definition of “de minimus” activities. To date there has been no notice of an additional rulemaking process. The update APHIS posted last week said they were still working on it. When it happens, we will be asking the ASCA membership to submit comments just as they did for the Retail Pet store Rule.

Meanwhile, back at the HSUS ranch, on September 21 HSUS, in conjunction with their friends at ASPCA and HSVMA (Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association), filed a 243 page petition with USDA/APHIS “to request necessary enhancements to existing regulatory restrictions on the inhumane treatment of dogs living in dealer housing facilities.” In other words, they want a new rulemaking to further define the conditions under which dogs are allowed to be kept by those required to be licensed. USDA/APHIS jumped through hoops before for the animal rights contingent, they will again. We would suggest that ASCA members write a letter requesting denial of the petition and we will get some information for them once we have had a chance to digest what is in the petition. And when it goes to rulemaking we will also be encouraging members to comment.

On a possibly related note, the Purdue study announced in 2014, a two-year research project to collect data and test current nationwide dog breeding standards, is moving along. The purpose of the study is to create a uniform standard for dog care and well-being in all 50 states. While this sounds good, it has the potential to be problematic on many levels and since it is supported in part by USDA/APHIS chances are pretty good that the results will be used for further rulemaking. A one-size-fits-all standard, which this looks to be the objective here, is never appropriate for dogs. In a country as large as the United States, with varying climates and dogs bred and raised for different purposes – is one national dog breeding standard really possible, or even desirable? No one in their right mind would raise Aussies for ranch work the same way someone would raise Chihuahuas intended to be apartment pets. There are often good reasons why dogs are raised differently. How the results of this study will affect the ASCA membership is impossible to estimate at this time.

Those are the big things currently going on at the national level and there is plenty there to keep us busy. There are innumerable problematic issues at state and local levels throughout the country – proposed bans on docking and dew-claw removal, bans on other veterinary procedures, mandatory spay/neuter proposals, bans on training tools or housing techniques such as prong collars or tethering, all sorts of legislation regulating breeding or pet store sales, animal abuser registries, and much more – all designed for one purpose, to limit our ownership rights and restrict our activities with our animals. For example, last year alone by the time I stopped counting in April of 2015, between the Assembly and Senate in New York there were 105 animal-related bills. I am sure the volume is similar in other states. The Legislative Committee cannot possibly keep up with all of these so we would ask, if there is something that needs our input in your local area, please bring it to our attention. And please do so with enough notice that we have a chance to come up with a response for you. And of course – we always need more members!! Please think of joining our committee for the exciting work ahead. If you are interested, contact the ASCA Business Office with your resume. Thank you.”

Here are your Legislative Committee representatives:

Chair: Susan Beals

REGION 1:

REGION 2: Patricia Wolfe (CA)

REGION 3: Darcy Gardiner (WY)

REGION 4: Sunday Miles (MI)

REGION 5:

REGION 6:

REGION 7:

Most Versatile Aussie Committee Report:

There was no one from the committee there to report.

Here are your Most Versatile Aussie Committee representatives:

Chair: Renee Watson (GA)

REGION 1:

REGION 2: Curt Uritz (CA)

REGION 3:

REGION 4: Adriana Plum (KY)

REGION 5: Andrea Hoffmann (TN), Lori Fausett (FL)

REGION 6:

REGION 7:

Obedience Committee Report:

Laurie Rubin, Chair of the Obedience Committee, gave the report.

“The Obedience Committee has been working with a reduced number of members and accordingly our rate of work has slowed down in the last year. I am still pleased that we have been successful keeping our Yahoo conversations courteous and harmonious.

Here are some of previous years’ statistics:

- 6/1/2010 thru 5/31/2011: 305 shows and 833 participants
- 6/1/2011 thru 5/31/2012: 296 shows and 830 participants
- 6/1/2012 thru 5/31/2013: 267 shows and 736 participants
- 6/1/2013 thru 5/31/2014: 266 shows and 652 participants
- 6/1/2014 thru 5/31/2015: 247 shows and 745 participants

Yearly Title Report for Obedience 6/1/2014 thru 5/31/2015:

Number of shows: 247

Number of dogs competing: 745

Titles Received – Aussies	Titles Received – Other Breeds
BN – 69	BN – 33
CD – 113	CD – 86
CDX – 36	CDX – 27
ODX – 11	ODX – 3
OTCH – 8	OTCH – 5
OTCH-O2 – 1	OTCH-O2 – 1
OTCH2 – 3	OTCH3 – 1
OTCH5 – 1	UD – 11
UD – 14	UDX – 2
UDX – 1	UDX4 – 1
UDX-O – 1	
UDX2 – 1	

Over the last 3 years, number of trials has gone down but number of competitors has risen.

Here are some of this year’s accomplishments:

- Put on Judging Seminar at 2014 Nationals open to all, videoed it and made the video link available via the AusSENews.
- Put on Judging Seminar at 2015 Nationals.
- Gathered and published multiple ways to honor Nationals High Score award winners in front of an audience. List shared with Board, Nationals Committee chairs, Aussie Times.
- Witnessed the success of our informational Finals Packet, created in 2014, and addition of a Finals Handler meeting on the smooth running of Finals.
- Added a requirement for Bitches in Season at Nationals to wear pants and deleted the prohibition on using a ring again afterwards and asked for a Variance for 2015 Nationals.
- Solicited feedback, discussed and decided not to change the ODX class from Regular to Optional Titling.
- Discussed and created to send to the Board a new Graduate Novice Optional Titling Class (OT) to replace the current Non-regular class. The new version contains exercises aimed to be stepping stones from Novice to Open.
- Changed Utility class rules.
 - Directed Retrieve—change to everyone in class getting same glove
 - Directed jumping—changed deduction to substantial from NQ for second command to sit on go out
 - Moving stand—added tail to list of not to be examined
- Published a Judges Time Calculation Worksheet for Trial Secretaries to use when accepting entries and updated the entry limit language to reflect today's trials where 1 judge officiates for multiple classes and/or multiple trials per day.
- Added Obedience Trial/Show Coordinators' responsibilities to the website, including
 - Guidelines for Obedience Trial Coordinators
 - Guidelines for Obedience Trial Secretaries
 - Sample Obedience Entry Spreadsheet
 - Sample confirmation letter, and
 - Researched and clarified preferred terminology for obedience secretary, learning the Board prefers Trial Secretary to Show Sec. except when in conjunction with conformation
- Created and/or edited ~20 documents for the new website.
- Added a walk-through for the new Beginner Novice OT class.
- Continued to update a document highlighting differences between ASCA and AKC obedience rules to help judges and competitors who work in both venues.
- Clarified Honor Dog rules per direction from Board.
- Clarified roaming on stays rule to state that dog moving from its position on down stay should be excused from the second group exercise, but not necessarily from the individual exercises, when the down stay comes before the sit stay.
- Removed 1-2 breeds from the list of dogs jumping $\frac{3}{4}$ shoulder height.
- Clarified Group Stay language and moved the majority of it out of Chapter 2 and back into Chapter 3 Novice and 4 Open.
- Clarified and renamed section that was Dogs that Must Compete, since handlers have been able to self-excuse for years. It is now named Excusals and Disqualifications.
- Clarified that dogs can only earn OTCH points at trials subsequent to that in which they finish their UD (not in an Open B class directly following the Utility class where the 3rd UD leg was earned).

- Clarified Finals qualification language to show that dogs can only be listed in the highest level Finals class for which they have 3 qualifying scores.
- Requested that Kalla re-insert the Bar Jump diagram into the Addendum section of the rulebook and consolidate all the jump diagrams into 1 page.
- Discussed and decided not to allow FEO entries.
- Discussed and decided not to add a Novice C class at this time.
- Discussed and decided clarifying language not needed on whether a person or a dog can show under an instructor.
- Discussed allowing non-ASCA obedience clubs to hold sanctioned obedience trials as done in agility and decided not to act at this time.
- Edited the obedience judges test.
 - Added 2 judges ethics questions
 - Edited and tried to make multiple choice questions and answers clearer and not as “tricky”
 - Added Beginner Novice questions
- Decided to allow AKC Obedience judges to take a shortened Judges test, focusing on the differences between ASCA and AKC, wrote the first draft of this test, and discussed eliminating the requirement that an AKC judge wait to serve as an ASCA judge while his/her name is published in the AT.

Here are some topics coming up:

- Judge education
 - Consider creating Web-based education, like rally, —needs volunteer
 - Consider recommending apprentice judging to judge applicants
 - Update Judges Guidelines—needs volunteer
- Change Versatility Class to an OT class.
- Discuss changing rulebook language to allow clubs option of having BIS compete if it’s posted in premium and they follow Nationals rules.
- Create judge monitoring process—postponed until Board gives more guidance
 - From Board: Move to direct the Office Staff to send any negative judge comments in Judges Evaluations to the corresponding Committee Liaison. If a committee has a process for reviewing judge comments, please let the Board know what it is. If a committee does not have a process to monitor judges and make recommendations to the Board, they need to develop one.
- Discuss possible ODX changes or clarifications
 - Should we disallow earning both CDX and ODX? handlers must choose one
 - Should we change so the cone is put out before the handler sets up or even that it stays out for whole class?
 - Should we change scoring to make more consistent—sitting outside 3’ and standing outside 4’ should either both be substantial deductions or both be NQ’s; and/or should wording change to body lengths instead of feet?
 - Amend the rule to cover what happens if a dog moves a little after standing but not enough to get outside the 4’ radius.
 - For the future, should we combine all the current parts of the DOE's into one exercise and add a totally new exercise to make it more rigorous?
- Eliminate the non-regular Sub Novice class.
- Create an excel trial report form.

I am keeping a running list of about 30 other possible Obedience Committee agenda topics for the future that have been recommended by committee members or others.”

Here are your Obedience Committee representatives:

Chair: Laurie Rubin (CA)

REGION 1: Katie Van de Sandt (OR), Marilyn Cherry (OR)

REGION 2: Penny Jameson (UT)

REGION 3:

REGION 4:

REGION 5: Rosalind Hall (AL), Sandy Walroth (TX)

REGION 6: Jayne Lips (PA), Jane Small (MA)

REGION 7:

Rally Committee Report:

Karen Black, Chair of the Rally Committee, gave the report.

“Before getting to a review of Rally Committee business for the past year and a preview of things to come in the next several months, the rally committee would like to congratulate all the Rally Finalists who competed here on Sunday. Their hard work and commitment to their four-legged team mates made it possible for them to showcase their skills in this year’s ASCA Rally Finals. There were 20 participants who showed to judges Jayne Lips and Heidi Iverson. After all exhibitors competed on 2 Masters courses and 2 Excellent courses, the 2015 Rally Finals Champion is OTCH RTCH D Bar D Kiss My Grits UD ODX TD. “Sassy” is bred by Sally Davis and Karen Ritter, owned by Laurie Sasaki.

Congratulations to Laurie and Sassy and to all the 2015 Finalists!

Following Rally Finals, the Rally Committee presented a Rally Judges Education Seminar which was open to judges, exhibitors, and anyone interested in Rally. We had over 30 people in attendance.

Unfortunately due to Finals running long, we were late getting the seminar started. I would like to apologize for not being able to start the seminar at 3:00pm as originally planned and for any confusion that may have caused. The seminar room was also being used for the evening dinners so we had to wrap things up before getting through the entire seminar. A link on the ASCA website is available for those wishing to complete the seminar. Please see me for the link.

In June of 2010 ASCA kicked off our version of Rally and began sanctioning events. During that first year there were 28 affiliates who held Rally trials to help get this program off the ground. During the 2014-2015 year, the number of affiliates offering rally trials increased to 51. With 141 affiliates in ASCA, there is still a tremendous amount of room for growth for this program. If you are a member of an affiliate that hasn’t offered ASCA Rally yet, we encourage you to give it a try. If you aren’t quite sure how to get started, talk to one of the Rally committee members here this week or email us and we can help you get started.

During the 2013-2014 competition year there were 257 rally trials with 1260 dogs completing. During the 2014-2015 competition year, there were 269 trials with 1153 dogs competing, an increase of 12 trials in the 2014-2015 year. We did see a drop in the number of dogs competing, however. We hope the current year will see a rise in the number of dogs competing in Rally and even more trials. Hopefully the addition of judges in your area will make that possible.

Since the last general membership report we have added six new judges. These judges reside in Georgia, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington and Germany. We currently have three potential judges at various stages of the application process from South Carolina, Colorado, and Michigan.

Affiliates, please note that judges come into the ASCA Rally program as provisional judges. As provisional judges they are qualified to judge all levels of ASCA Rally. Their courses are reviewed prior to

judging your assignments. Once a provisional judge submits a set of courses for a trial they are hired to judge that does not require corrections, they are recommended to the BOD for approval as regular judges. You should feel equally comfortable hiring provisional and regular rally judges.

As with most programs, from time to time, we discover through the course of running trials, there are some rules that need to be looked at a little closer to make sure the affiliates, National event committees, exhibitors and judges have clear instruction on efficient and effective trial procedures in order to minimize problems on the days leading up to the event and on the event days. A pattern has developed over the last few years that these discoveries are either made or relayed to the committee during our week at Nationals and during the judges education seminar at nationals. This year has proven no different. The committee will be discussing these concerns in the next couple of months to determine how best to address the things brought to our attention.

We would like to emphasize that it is not necessary to wait until Nationals if you have a question or concern for the Rally Committee. We are available year round to provide help to exhibitors, affiliates, judges and ASCA members in general. We appreciate the trust you put in us to help guide this program in the right direction so that it is a benefit to affiliates, exhibitors, judges and a positive contribution to ASCA.

Some of the items brought to our attention for discussion are:

- The description for the Back 3 Steps exercise and judging that exercise; is it a single element in Masters or multiple elements; looking to improve the wording of the exercise to make it clear that the dog must back up with the handler or it will be an IP.
- 2 stopwatches to be used in Finals to reduce the chance of a “no time” since ties are broken by time in rally
- Looking at the guidelines for notifying alternates.
- Discussion of what constitutes a leash
- Clarifying run-off rules for finals
- Clarifying the wording for “C” class qualifying scores

If you have any thoughts on these items or have anything else you would like the committee to address, please let one of the committee members know or send your thoughts to Karen Black at karenquilts@att.net.

A couple of things being looked at by the committee to help expand ASCA Rally are some online videos designed primarily to assist exhibitors in areas where access to training schools or instructors may be limited, and a short video to demonstrate the easy use of the online course design template to make course designing easier for judges and exhibitor or even instructors who may want to use it for lesson plans.

We would like to have a full committee once appointments are made at the Spring Board Meeting in April. One of the primary on-going responsibilities of the Rally Committee is course reviews. If you love rally, are analytical in nature, love puzzles and figuring things out and seeing how the whole picture fits together, volunteering for the Rally Committee may be a perfect way for you to contribute to the best breed registry in the world! Please send your resume to executive.secretary@asca.org. We are especially in need of members, from regions 1, 3, 4, and 7. Having representation from all regions helps ensure that the needs of each region are heard. Please consider joining us in our effort to support and guide the best Rally program anywhere in the world!

If you have any comments or suggestions please email the Rally Committee Chair, Karen Black, at kblack@pdmsdesign.com, or contact any Committee member. Committee members present in Tennessee are Karen Black, Pat Pierce, Corinne Shanks, Karen Sousa and Leah Swatko. The Committee really wants to hear from you on how Rally is working in your part of the ASCA world so please find one of us and let us know how rally is going in your area and how we can best help you.”

Here are your Rally Committee representatives:

Chair: Karen Black (TX)

REGION 1:

REGION 2:

REGION 3: Beryl Billingsley (KS)

REGION 4:

REGION 5: Sandra Walroth (TX), Pat Pierce (GA), Carrie Lovell (TX), Corinne Shanks (OK), Ann Lovell (TX)

REGION 6: Karen Souza (MA), Leah Swatko (ON)

REGION 7: Heinz Guenter Geisel (DE)

Robbi Norman said that at the ASC of Michigan rally trials they often hear from judges that the ASCA rally program is constantly changing. She was wondering if that will be ongoing or if the program will stabilize in the near future. Black responded that there was a period at the onset of the program where it was in a near constant state of flux, but now the committee only makes changes when an issue is brought to their attention.

Sponsorship Committee Report:

Ray Fryar, Chair of the Sponsorship Committee, gave the report. The committee recently sent out a survey to the membership that gathered demographic data to be used to target possible areas for sponsorship. Once the results of the survey are processed they will move forward with that.

Here are your Sponsorship Committee representatives:

Chair: Ray Fryar (TX)

REGION 1: Amy Bradley (WA)

REGION 2:

REGION 3:

REGION 4:

REGION 5: Heidi Mobley (TX), Linda Bell (TX)

REGION 6:

REGION 7: Mikael Hageus (SE)

Stockdog Committee Report:

Maxine Schvaneveldt, Stockdog Committee Chair, gave the report.

“The Stock Dog committee has been very busy this past year. Our biggest accomplishment was the stock dog rule book being totally reorganized. This was a major undertaking with many people involved. We have been diligently working on new courses that will fit in a minimum sized arena. These courses were presented to the contestants in the meeting on Tuesday. If anyone has any ideas for courses, please submit to anyone on the committee. We are open to all ideas. Our goal is to have variety courses for clubs to choose from.

We lost one of our long time judges this year, Rick Pinney. Five judges have become regular stock dog judges this year. There are two provisional judges and three apprentice judges in the program at this time.

The yearly report for the number of trials is as follows:

Farm trials – 40

Total number of dogs competing – 193

Ranch trials – 7

Total number of dogs competing – 30

WTCH-M – 2 titles

WTCH-X – 1 title

Regular Stock Dog trials are up this year from 422 to 428 total trials – 1208 total dogs competing.

Big thanks to all Affiliate Clubs submitting their Farm Trial Sanctioning requests. They have been much easier to review by the committee.

At this time the Stock Dog committee has an opening from Region 6 for a contestant. In April of 2016 all contestants' term will be up. Please, if you are interested, send your resume to Kalla Jaco the Executive Secretary. The committee is very active and has a monthly Skype meeting and lots of email communication."

Here are your Stockdog Committee representatives:

Chair: Dan Sanderson (AZ)

Regional Contestant Representatives:

REGION 1: Leroy McKay (MT)

REGION 2:

REGION 3: Irene Manley (BC)

REGION 4: Pam Watson (MO)

REGION 5: Linda Bell (TX)

REGION 6:

REGION 7: Mikael Hageus (SE)

At-Large Judge Representatives:

Marti Parrish (WA)

David Clayton (FL)

James Bergert (IA)

Fiona Hibbard (OR)

Wayne Kirby (GA)

Maxine Schvaneveldt (ID)

Tracking Committee Report:

Jan Wesen, Liaison to the Tracking Committee, gave the report.

"Hi or Hallo (as we say in the Netherlands) I'm Marja Teegelbeckers and I am the new Chair of the Tracking Committee since January 2015. Sorry I'm not there, it's a long trip to come over from the Netherlands to present a report. I will thank Carol McQuade for the hard work as chair for the past years and the support she gives me currently. It's totally new for me to write a report. But I will try..... Before I will tell something about the tracking committee I will tell something about me.....So you know something about me.....

I started with tracking in 2000 at a search and rescue club with my first Aussie Fellow. He worked nice and he was my teacher in Tracking. Over the years tracking grew at me At that time there was only IPO tracking (Internationale Prüfungs Ordnung) It's the same program as Schutzhund..... and there was no ASCA tracking (I had never heard about it).

In May 2008 I came in contact with ASCA tracking. Jan Wesen came to the Netherlands and there was a certification test. I entered with 2 of my Aussie (Fellow and Page) and we passed this test. My love for ASCA tracking was born.

Later that year I went with my Aussie "Windsors Dutch Page" to the Nationals in Las Vegas for Tracking test. It was a big adventure..... to travel with a dog to the USA, the Nationals and the tracking test.....But it was worth it..... we passed the test and Page became the first Aussie in Europe with a ASCA tracking title (TD).

After Las Vegas I became member of the Tracking Committee because I would that ASCA tracking became bigger in Europe.

In 2013 I went with my other Aussie "A Cool Chap O'Dazzling Spirit" to Greeley for the tracking and it was great..... Chap did a very good job and we passed the test. Chap became the second Aussie with an ASCA tracking title in Europe. I trained him all by myself..... I sent a video of my certification test to the Tracking Committee for my certification.

At this time ASCA tracking is very, small in Europe. People do tracking but mostly it's IPO or of another organization, or people do Mantrailing with their Aussies (Mantrailing is a kind of Tracking).

People in Europe want to do an ASCA tracking test.....And hopefully in 2016 there will be a tracking test in the Netherlands. Fingers crossed.... The problem is we need a lot of tracking fields...and that can be a big problem..... The Netherlands is small.

For the tracking committee it was a very quiet year It's a year of new things and People.

We welcomed 2 new Tracking Committee Members, Lisa Klein and Maia Halvorsen.....

Jan Wesen became BOD Liaison of the Tracking Committee and left the Tracking Committee as an active member. Jan Thanks for all your work.....

Also we can say Welcome to 2 new Tracking judges: Sarah Kahn for TD level and Stephanie Gonyeau for all Levels....

Further Jan Wesen (ASCA board member) has spearheaded a new ASCA tracking club in Washington and the first TD, TDX test will take place November 29, 2015.

In the period of 6/1/2013 thru 5/31/2014 there were 7 tracking tests:

6/28/2013	ASC of Michigan	(MI)
9/20/2013	Colorado ASA	(CO)
10/27/2013	Wascuny	(NY)
14/2 till 17/2/2014	Peninsula ASA	(CA) it was a 4 day trial
2/23/2014	Florida ASA	(FL)
2/26/2014	ASA of San Diego County	(CA)

Results of these 7 trails:

Titles Received - Aussies:	1 MT	(Master Tracker)
	6 TD	(Tracking Dog)
	6 TD -II	(Tracking Dog II)
	1 TD -III	(Tracking Dog I)
	1 TDX -II	(Tracking Dog Excellent II)

Titles Received - Other Breeds:	8 TD	(Tracking Dog)
	2 TD-II	(Tracking Dog II)

There were 22 dogs competing the Tracking tests

In the period of 6/1/2014 thru 5/31/2015 there were 4 tracking tests:

12/31/2014	ASC of San Diego County	(CA)
2/15/2015	Peninsula ASA	(CA)
2/22/2015	Florida ASA	(FL)
3/8/2015	Mid-South ASC	(TN)

Results of these 4 trails:

Titles Received – Aussies:	1 MT	(Master tracker)
	2 TD	(Tracking Dog)
	2 TDX	(Tracking Dog Excellent)
	1 TDX-II	(Tracking Dog Excellent II)

Titles Received - Other Breeds:	4 TD	(Tracking Dog)
	1 TD	(Tracking Dog Excellent)

There were 11 dogs competing the Tracking tests

The Tracking Committee is at this moment a small Committee so we need new members to the committee. We welcome membership input.

All good luck in the tracking.....in the field, as competitor, tracking layer, helper, judge, organization or something else.... GOOD LUCK AND LOTS OF TRACKING FUN!"

Here are your Tracking Committee representatives:

Chair: Marja Teegelbeckers (NL)

REGION 1: Carol McQuade (MT). Lisa Klein (WA), Lisa Klein (WA)

REGION 2: Anne Hersey (CA)

REGION 3:

REGION 4:

REGION 5:

REGION 6:

REGION 7: Maria Kremers (NL)

Judge Education

Leah Swatko brought up the need for more educational opportunities for judges to keep up with the ongoing education requirements for each program. There was discussion about having an entire day at Nationals dedicated to seminars.

Karen Black commented that there needs to be a place at Nationals where the seminars can be held with minimal distractions and there can be a set time for them to start – not “following Finals competition.” Affiliates are encouraged to hold as many educational events as they can.

Jackie Oricko brought up recording the seminars and putting them on the ASCA Website for judges and members to watch. Kathy Renkema said that there are ways to track when someone has watched the full video and they could earn credit toward their judge education requirements.

Exhibitor Conduct

Cheryl Padgett brought up issues with poor exhibitor conduct toward judges and questioned whether those judges had the backing of ASCA in standing up to that kind of behavior. There was discussion about taking 1.11 Exhibitor Conduct from the Conformation Rules and adding a similar section to each of the program rules. The Board has added this to their agenda.

Executive Session

Jerry Aufox reminded the Board that only discussions can take place in Executive Session – the motion and vote tally must be made and reported in the minutes. No issue is kept out of the minutes, but the details of discussions of confidential issues are not reported.

Leah Swatko thanked the Board for the job they have done and how things are moving forward smoothly. She has not been hearing the usual rumors and believes ASCA is on good footing. There are always concerns in any organization, but this Board is doing their best to address them.

Deb St. Jacques echoed her sentiments and thanked the Directors for volunteering.

Executive Director

Jerry Aufox questioned if the Board was reconsidering hiring an Executive Director. DeChant responded that the Board had created a committee of members with expertise to work on finding out if it was feasible for ASCA to hire an Executive Director, or not. She believes that one is necessary due to all that

needs to be managed within ASCA, but we do not really have the money to afford it. The Board also has to be willing to give up some of their power and the Bylaws would need to be changed. Jerry Aufox commented that an Executive Director could bring a lot of money into ASCA.

Dispute Rules

Robbi Norman asked if there would be any online educational materials made available to help Affiliate clubs better understand the dispute process and what is expected of them. The Board has formed a committee that will be working on that.

Conflict of Interest

Denise Creelman brought up the unclear definition of “conflict of interest” in ASCA. In the past, when someone was elected to the Board their family members were removed from committees. This Board has chosen not to follow that precedent. There are no rules that prohibit Directors or their family members from serving on committees. Some members were concerned with Directors voting on recommendations created by or voted on in the committee by their family members.

Ronnie Bates commented that while not prohibited in our rules, family members working together at different levels of the organization may not be in the best interest of ASCA. A Director must use their discretion, and that is always subjective.

Linda Braun brought up sections 5.4 and 5.7 in the ASCA Director’s Handbook, which specifically deals with avoiding even the perception of a conflict of interest. DeChant said the Board will look closer at that section.

Jerry Aufox commented that family members serving on committees and the Board is not inherently a conflict of interest and that those discussing may need to look into what a conflict of interest actually is.

Jerry Aufox moved to adjourn the meeting. All present approved.
DeChant called the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.