

Summary of March 2022 Delegate Meeting and Delegate Committee Meetings:

Diane Reid

3.9.22

Meeting:

Three delegates were elected to the AKC Board of Directors, Class of 2026: Christopher Sweetwood, Harold Tatro III and Ann Wallin.

The AKC Board of Directors reelected Dr. Thomas M. Davies as Chairman of the Board and Dominic Palleschi Carota as Vice Chairman of the Board.

The Portuguese Podengo Club of America was approved as a new AKC member club.

Dr Thomas Davies, Chairman, gave a very powerful and moving tribute to Ronald H. Menaker. He then talked about the importance of Meet the Breeds, which is starting up again in April. It is an opportunity to connect the public to our breeds, our clubs and the AKC, and to show how purebred dogs make a difference. Parent clubs and volunteers are crucial. Participate for our breed and for the sport. Representation in each location is crucial.

Dennis Sprung, President and CEO, wants to let the membership know that clubs are flourishing. He gave some statistics covering the period from 2017-21: 236 new performance, companion and confirmation clubs were recognized; 38 left the AKC, the reasons being aging out, lack of membership, or loss of sites in the area. He then gave a tribute to Ronald H. Menaker.

Ted Phillips, CFO, gave a very positive report for year ending 2021. Litter and dog registrations were the highest since 2008 and 2007 respectively. 325,000 litters were processed and 801,985 dogs. Online exceeded 80% of all registrations. Unique breeders climbed 15%. Sports and events recovered strongly with 3,201,00 entries, 73% higher than 2020. Confirmation increased by 627,000 entries, agility by 397,000, Fast Cat by 82,000 and Scent Work by 80,000. There were 22,413 events in 2021. The AKC has assets exceeding \$190 million, primarily from investments, but also from advertising, products and services and as stated above, registration and events. 2021 was the best year ever for the AKC.

The recent PAC fundraiser, a crate giveaway, raised \$19,000.00. Clubs are encouraged to support PAC . By contributing, we enhance the efforts of the AKC to fight for our rights as dog owners.

Brandi Hunter Munden, VP, Public Relations and Communications gave a brief report outlining what this department does: it promotes AKC, dog sports, its programs and its reputation. They deal with brand enhancement and media mentions. In Q4, they evaluated 5301 clips. The AKC is

mentioned 75 times a day in the media. In this fourth quarter, there were no negative mentions of the AKC.

Ron Furman, Director, AKC Media, and William Ellis, Manager, AKC.tv gave a report on AKC Broadcasting. They develop programs to increase audience viewership and awareness, while combining education with entertainment. ESPN had 6 ½ hours of AKC programming on Christmas Day, the first time ever. Having the AKC on ESPN has proven to be a game changer. One large way is that it receives 'mission messaging' during commercial time, which attracts Fortune 500 brands. Brands have embraced AKC. The AKC controls all the content within its programming. There were 168 hours of AKC content in 2021, and millions of viewers. ESPN's goal was to try to increase their female viewership. Whenever the AKC was on, the female viewership rose 40%.

Committee Meetings:

All-Breed: Police Dog Detection is growing. Events are on ESPN. Reunite offers to fund \$7500 towards a police dog. The balance of \$2500 needs to be raised by the breed club or community. This is a great way to connect with your community.

Be aware of covid rules - some are ending, some are extending, some will stay.

The Juniors with canine partners pilot started in January. This is about getting juniors into our sport; it is not a move to allow mixed breeds. 55% of clubs opt out. The board will vote in July to eliminate the ownership requirement for juniors. This has been a hardship and deterrent for many juniors. Do not forget to assign someone to the role of Junior Coordinator.

The AKC is vetting places to donate money to the Ukraine. Dennis Sprung will update the membership soon.

The Bred By Exhibitor Puppy class is opt in. Clubs are encouraged to try this. Just be aware it could add financially in terms of awards. Club members should learn how to steward. A course is being worked on.

There have been 2000 legislative bills so far this year. Not much will happen though as Congress is busy. The Puppy Protection Act is problematic. On the surface, it looks good, but nuances are dreadful - the details are way too restricting, and one size does not fit all. We need to pay attention to what happened in Norway - legislation passed restricting how people breed. Though much is different between the US and Norway, this will no doubt impact us. Legislation wanting to restrict raises red flags. We need to get ahead of the curve: educate breeders, judges, consumers about breed standards and focus on health.

Bylaws: in honor of Ron Menaker, they are once again going to try doing away with term limits.

Canine Health: \$2 million in grants and 3 fellowships - a great start to the year. The semen preservation bank is moving forward, but not ready to be rolled out yet. Dr. Bell is working on a white paper to explain the importance of preserving frozen semen for future generations, and lawyers are looking over all the paperwork.

Vet outreach continues for the most part virtually, though there have been two on campus visits. The goal is to complete 14 a semester and the AKC is on target to accomplish this. Dr. Jerry Klein continues to lead them online.

Companion Events: a motion to allow tripods to compete in obedience and rally did not pass. Most of the concern centered around jumping a dog with a missing leg over the 20 and 24 inch jumps. The dog's balance would be thrown off. More research will be done. The AKC is starting an Agility League - a non-titling team event. A motion to allow rally judges to judge beginner novice is going to the board.

Dog Show Rules: The board will vote on allowing class breed winners to get points towards their championship if they place second, third or fourth in the groups.

Herding, Earthdog & Coursing: all these events have made money. The virtual scent pilot program was due to end in July '22. They support an extension. The board is discussing, and will continue to discuss physically challenged dogs running in Fast CAT.

Parent Clubs: the Doberman Pinscher Club is making an effort to train new veterinarians on the proper techniques for ear cropping. Fewer and fewer vets have the skills to perform this, and many are retiring from the profession. 443 clubs have participated and raised funds for Pet Disaster Relief Trailers. Clubs are asked to fill in the specialty site survey. Clubs are encouraged to participate in Pupdate, a newsletter sent weekly for 48 weeks to guide new owners. It is a great tool for parent clubs and costs them nothing. It links to the parent club website. The NOHS now has Levels of Achievement, offering Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum recognition.