

Summary of June 2020 Delegate Meeting and Delegate Committee Meetings:

Please Note: due to Covid, these meetings were held on Zoom, and I attended.

NY State Attorney General gave AKC permission to hold electronic meetings. They are in full compliance.

Dr. Thomas Davies, Chairman, thanked management and staff for all the technology that was quickly put into place, the delegates for participating this way and everyone in the sport for adapting. Club Development was hard at work helping with postponements, cancellations and new protocols. These are trying times, but registration is way up, breeders have had the full support of the AKC and there have been many educational webinars to attend. The board met an additional third time during this period.

Three new ad hoc committees were set up with the common goal of moving the AKC forward and to better serve the membership:

Communication:	to develop protocols for board to relay information to delegates and members at large and to do this in a faster way than before
Judging Approval Process:	to monitor and review and see where modifications are needed
Bylaws:	to modernize the current documents

There have been 11,370 cancelled shows so far. Many difficult and painful decisions had to be made. NC office was closed March 13th except for 25 employees who did all that was needed to be done during this time. NY was shut down on March 18th. Every department was reviewed for financial reasons and many new initiatives were taken, such as the virtual dog show, virtual rally, virtual ACT, virtual Trick Dog. Sixty breed seminars were given and there were 17,653 live attendees. Online activity was the best it has been in decades.

Dennis Sprung, President and CEO, ends the meeting by saying that dog people must be united and productive and that the staff in each and every department is there for all of us. Events will all once again be held.

Financial report: litter and registrations are way up during this period – 7% and 5% higher than this same period in 2019. Best May since 2009. Pedigree reports also up. Events and entries are 49% lower. Expenses are lower and the operation income higher. Almost all of the 2020 market investments have been recovered in this volatile market.

Votes on amendments:	Ch. 3, section 3 will be voted on at next meeting but the change is to have a Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class inserted into the regular classes. Clarifies language that the puppy and 12-18 month classes may be divided.
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Ch.16, section 6 will be voted on at next meeting but the change will apply the same logic to GR CH points as CH points at independent specialties.

Whether the September 2020 delegate meeting will be held in person or via zoom will be decided by the board during their July meeting.

Committee Meetings: not all were held

Parent Clubs: working on bringing forth their suggestion for a bylaw change to allow regional or local specialty clubs to become member clubs

Bouvier Club is doing a survey on futurity programs. Very interested in anything any club has to share. They will share results with interested clubs

Many new health statements have been submitted and accepted, as well as a few that have been updated; five breed standards were revised

Legislation: Covid and what it could mean to a club if there should be a lawsuit. Need to get covid legal liability protection – even a frivolous lawsuit can cost a club too much

This is an election year – need to support dog friendly candidates
Healthy Dog Importation Act – dogs arriving need to be healthy

Pet Disaster Trailers: 432 AKC clubs are participating; actively trying to get more parent clubs to join; 88 trailers allocated to 29 states; \$1,629,000.00 received in donations; AKC Reunite donated \$650,000.00; 14 trailers are in the pipeline

Juniors: there has been lots of outreach during Covid and scholarships distributed

Breeders Report: working on - education (there are three new courses – offered at half price to assist clubs); facebook page for new breeders to ask questions; facebook page for juniors; ways to capture information from older breeders for future breeders; encouraging juniors to become breeders

Dog Show Rules: There was a proposal allowing parent clubs to submit a request for a one time exemption allowing them to hold two nationals in 2021. This would be for clubs who were forced to cancel their 2020 national due to covid. They can be held separately or at the same time – one would be called 2020 National and the other 2021 National. This would benefit low entry

breeds so that they could get majors, reserve majors, etc. This would not be a rule change, merely a one time change.

Lots of virtual opportunities were quickly set up; lots of free webinars – these have been so successful that they will continue after events resume.

Working on streamlining premium requirements so cost stays down - most people seem to be going online versus waiting for the mail

Best practices: will be adjusted and modified as needed. Clubs need to protect themselves as much as possible – know cancellation policies of hotels, sites, etc. People are finding it easy to renegotiate now – even in terms of judges, vendors, superintendents. Travel health insurance for judges is advised. Get everything in writing.

All Breed Clubs:

working on how best to meet their needs -

Develop guidelines for people who have trouble taking care of their dogs. They can become at risk for many reasons (too many dogs, illness, financial issues, etc); be aware of your membership; have a sunshine committee to check in with elderly or those not attending events/meetings; check in with members in disaster areas; start a fund to help – for supplies, not to give money to members; alert local vets

Back to back shows might be a good way to go now, especially in terms of some local requirements limiting numbers and space requirements: two 600 dog shows versus one 1200. AKC is working very quickly now in terms of approvals