

**THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE DELEGATE PARENT CLUB COMMITTEE**

June 7, 2015

The June 7, 2015 meeting of the Delegate Parent Club Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Pat Laurans, at 9:00 A.M., at the Doubletree by Hilton Newark Airport Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

Committee Members Present:

Anne Bowes
Karen Burgess
Connie Butherus
Pat Laurans
Karen Mays
John Nielsen
Betty Jo Patrick
Peter Piusz
Helen Prince
Larry Sorenson
Karen Spey

Pembroke Welsh Terrier Club of America
Greater Clark County Kennel Club
Afghan Hound Club of America
German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association
English Setter Association of America
Schipperke Club of America
Rottweiler Club of America
Scottish Terrier Club of America
Dachshund Club of America
American Pointer Club

Also Present:

Bill Feeny
Michael Liosis
Pat Cruz
Jim Dok
Alan Kalter

AKC Board Liaison
AKC Staff Liaison
AKC Board
AKC Board
AKC Board

Guests:

Wanda Allen
Michelle Barlak
Thomas Barrie
Robert Bergman
Roberta Berman
Virginia Brookings
Bob Brown
Kathi Brown
Suzanne Burgess
Marge Calltharp
Dominic Carota
Warren Cook
Whitney Coombs
Kathy Coxwell
Marilyn Curry
Kim Demchak
Dominic DiBalsi
Margaret DiColetto
Karen Dorn
Bob Eisele
James Efron
Sally Fineburg
Nancy Fisk
Linda Flynn

Saratoga New York Kennel Club
Ibizan Hound Club of the U.S.
West Highland White Terrier Club of America
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America
American Manchester Terrier Club
Shreveport Kennel Club
Great Pyrenees Club of America
Ladies Dog Club
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association
Chinese Shar Pei Club of America
Pharaoh Hound Club of America
Southern Oregon Kennel Club
Catoctin Kennel Club
Bearded Collie Club of America
American Chinese Crested Club
Giant Schnauzer Club of America
LeHigh Valley Kennel Club
The Chow Chow Club
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America
Suffolk County Kennel Club
Nashville Kennel Club
Hatboro Dog Club
Hockamock Kennel Club
South Shore Kennel Club

Bryant Freeman
Barbara Furbush
Deidre Gannon
Michael Gibson
David Gilstrap
JoEllen Gregory
Crystal Gessersmith
Steven Hamblin
Susan Hamil
Don Hanson
Keith Hanson
Ellen Hardin
Mike Harman
Dave Helming
Steve Hersey
Ted Hollander
Mike Houchard
Ann Hubbard
Eugenia Hunter
Helen Ingher
Don James
Patte Klecan
Gary Koeppel
Stacey LaForge
Flo Laicher
Sandra Launey
Louise Leone
John Lewis
Karen Luckey
Ken Mader
Karolynne McAteer
Colleen McDaniel
Jack McDaniel
Mary McDaniel
Betty McDonnell
Cindy Miller
Aleta Moore
Vivian Moran
Ruth Ann Naun
Beverly Nosiglia
Jeanette O'Hanlon
Mary Lou Olszewski
Nicky Patterson
Diane Pearson
Patricia Peel
Carole Plesur
Rebecca Poole
Billie Ponton
Richard Rohrbacher
John Ronald
Cathy Rubens
Jane Ruthford

Clumber Spaniel Club of America
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club
German Pinscher Club of America
Briard Club of America
Chattanooga Kennel Club
Otterhound Club of America
Columbia Kennel Club (S.C.)
Pacific Coast Pekingese Club
Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association
American Lhasa Apso Club
Bichobn Frise Club of America
Golden Retriever Club of America
Komondor Club of America
Newfoundland Club of America
Skye Terrier Club of America
Eastern Dog Club
Conyers Kennel Club
French Bulldog Club of America
Irish Wolfhound Club of America
Pasco Florida Kennel Club
Leonberger Club of America
American Bouvier des Flandres Club
Parson Rusell Terrier Association
Skye Terrier Club of America
Putnam Kennel Club
Basset Hound Club of America
Colorado Kennel Club
Sussex Spaniel Club of America
Spinone Club of America
American Sealyham Terrier Club of America
Irish Setter Club of America
Whidby Island Kennel Club
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America
Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club
Norwich Terrier Club of America
Harrisburg Kennel Club
Airedale Terrier Club of America
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America
Border Terrier Club of America
Kanandasaga Kennel Club
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America
American Bloodhound Club
Middlesex County Kennel Club
Bedlington Terrier Club of America
Alaskan Malamute Club
Italian Greyhound Club of America
Bull Terrier Club of America
Northwestern CT Dog Club
Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America
Samoyed Club of America
Fayetteville Kennel Club
Havanese Club of America

Norma Ryan
Kenny Saenz
Kathy Sanders
Gary Sarvinas
John Sawicki
Ereign Seacord
Carol Shields
Nance Olson Skoglund
Cindy Stansell
Patricia Staub
Maggi Strouse
Katherine Sullivan
Mike Teeling
Susan Thrasher
Judith Tighe
Laura Trainor
Marjorie Tuff
Dianne Tyree
Bette Williams
Janet Van Wormer
Lynn Worth-Smith
Sally Vilas
Marilyn Vinson
Marile Waterstraat
Lori Webster
Deborah Wilkins
Maggie Witwer

Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland
Chihuahua Club of America
Union County Kennel Club
Maryland Kennel Club
Keeshod Club of America
Welsh Terrier Club of America
American Belgian Malinois Club
Gordon Setter Club of America
Finnish Spitz Club of America
Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club
National Shiba Club of America
Field Spaniel Society of America
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the U.S.
Muncie Kennel Club
American Brittany Club
Susque-Nango Kennel Club
American Shetland Sheepdog Club
Tibetan Spaniel Club of America
Austin Kennel Club
Doberman Pinscher Club of America
Visla Club of America
American Shih Tzu Club
South East Iowa Kennel Club
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
Norwegian Elkhound Association of America
St. Croix Valley Kennel Club
Puli Club of America

Although the change in date of the September meeting could prove to be a problem for some, Pat Laurans urged everyone to come to the meeting. Committee members and Guests introduced themselves. On a motion by Karen Spey, the minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting were approved as printed.

Parent Club Delegate L: This list currently has 176 members with two added since the last meeting.

Parent Club Conference L: Peter Piusz noted that the list is up to 803 members with 6,177 messages. The main topic since the last session has been National Specialty Manuals.

Parent Club of Excellence Project, Larry Sorenson: Larry reported the committee has had several phone meetings and analysis of the data that has been collected. Connie Butherus gave an assessment of the raw numbers from the self-study as submitted by the Parent Clubs so far. 27 Parent Clubs have submitted Self Studies. The total possible score is 130 with a Median Score of 94 and a Mean Score of 89.6. She indicated that for these numbers to reflect the actual profile of Parent Clubs we need a much larger sample. There were some interesting trends regarding the Breeder of Merit Program. Only 10 of the 27 clubs indicated they were encouraging this. However, 13 encouraged full litter registration. Eleven clubs have increased their membership by from one to five percent. Less than half of the clubs report any Junior recognition or Junior Scholarship program. Sixteen of the 27 clubs did have some form of recognition of achievement program. Twenty-five of 27 did recommend health screening. Breeder and Judge Mentoring have high numbers of participants. There were high numbers supporting funding of canine research, that have a club newsletter, participate in AKC events, have a Code of Ethics and whose By-Laws conform with AKC recommendations. The request will be sent out again to club presidents, secretaries and delegates. Clubs that have already responded are to respond again. Everyone was asked to encourage their clubs to participate. Don James, Leonberger Club of America, feels cloaking the responses was a mistake. We should be able to share information from club to club and because of the anonymity this is not possible under the current

policy. Connie Butherus explained that the committee felt if the clubs were identified with a score many of them would not want to submit their information. Karen Spey suggested this could be optional with a box to check if the information could be shared with other clubs. John Ronald, Samoyed Club of America, wondered if the lack of response is because there is an overlap with the All-Breed Committee's Best Practices Survey and clubs that have responded to one think they don't need to respond to the other. There might be some confusion with this.

CGC Title Numbers, Bill Feeney: The number of CHC titles are increasing. Last September the number was 22,600. Last December the number was 27,300. Last March the number was 29,300, and as of May 1, the number was 31,800.

Parent Club Legislative Liaisons, Anne Bowes: The Legislative Liaison has not been updated so there is no report.

Parent Club Publicity, Larry Sorenson: Larry presented three pages of ideas. To get his Board's attention, he did a graph of Dachshund registrations since 1933 showing the trend of registrations over this period. The next page was a series of backdrops used at National Specialties and the last page was a press release that AKC did for his club's event. Local people contacted TV stations and newspapers. Last year's National was in Sacramento, California and there were 80 people who came in off the street just to see the Dachshunds. Fourteen of them wanted a breeder-referral. They tried this again in Chattanooga and attracted 70 attendees through the same process. The combination of the local people and the AKC coming out with publicity really worked. A post card was made available for distribution that spectators could take with them that listed the club secretary, the Dachshund Club web site and the Dachshund Health web site.

Parent Club Rescue Alliance, Peter Piusz: The Parent Club Rescue E-List is up to 176 members with 6 parent club delegates. The listings for each club were posted on the Parent Club Delegate List. There are three categories: Rescue List Members, of which there are 95; Nominated, Not-Yet Members, of which there are 33; and No Response or No Rescue, of which there are 46. The nominated not-yet member means that your parent club has given us an email address for someone they would like to have on the list, but that person has not responded. There are 173 open invitations. Some clubs have as many as 20 different rescue organizations that they want represented on the list. The list is extremely active. An average month is about 120 messages. One positive result of the list is that clubs are working among themselves to help transport dogs across the country. Two things being asked for is information on State Laws regarding rescue and Federal Laws to help with how they should be organized and what they should be doing. The second request is asking for help with insurance. They feel AKC has worked with a couple of organizations to develop the insurance that all of our parent clubs have and they would like the same thing for rescue.

Dock and Crop, Peter Piusz: The discussion group will be focusing on some of the articles that have been published and following up on target projects they have been working on.

AKC Outreach/Marketplace in Regards to Parent Clubs, Pat Laurans: We received a letter from the Newfoundland Club of America asking that Parent Clubs be allowed to be part of the outreach program. Originally the answer was that since the Parent Clubs do send out brochures, some of the information is already out there. In following through with this we did get permission to have all the Parent Clubs listed as part of the Outreach Program. The answer from Mark Dunn, Mari Beth O'Neill and Mike Liosis was: "1) The AKC Club Outreach Program will be updated to add a breed specific Parent Club to each of the registration-triggered Club Outreach emails sent to recent dog registrants. We do not have a date for this change but expect it to be completed prior to September. Parent Clubs may or may not need to opt into the program depending on programming costs. Information about the current Club Outreach Program: [https://www.a\[s\]alc/prg/apps/club_outreach/index.cfm?sso=rel](https://www.a[s]alc/prg/apps/club_outreach/index.cfm?sso=rel). 2) Mari-Beth has confirmed with AKC Communications staff that we can indeed do a voluntary survey of all Breeders of Merit. The survey will ask these breeders to provide their current Parent Club affiliation(s). Staff will share the results of the survey with the Parent Clubs." Mike Liosis thanked the Committee for implementing this. Pat Laurans stated only a certain number of

spaces will be available, so it may be that only the parent club will be on there. If it is a club that does not have a number of other activities, it is conceivable that a regional club in that geographical area could be on there as well. John Ronald, Samoyed Club of America, urged the parent clubs to check the content on their particular breed to make sure it is up-to-date. Bill Feeney reminded us that at the last meeting there was a discussion about the content that appears on the web site. It was suggested that the parent clubs designate one individual to maintain contact with the AKC Communications Department and so far 62 clubs have done this with good results. Peter announced that Chris Walker is no longer with AKC so we will address where we are in September. Chris had tested a Beta Version of the AKC Market Place and Peter would like to hear from those who tried to do this and if they thought it was a good idea. He personally felt this was overwhelming for the parent clubs and that there is no guarantee there is a link between the AKC parent club web site and your parent club web sites which has to be addressed. Ruth Ann Naun, Border Terrier Club of America, stated that, with the changes in the organization, clubs need to understand there are things happening now with communications and the AKC. We're not in a real good place at the moment for making the right steps and moves. John Ronald, Samoyed Club of America, added that his club had just spent \$40,000.00 on creating their new web site and feels it is incumbent upon AKC to provide some technical support to help guide the parent club web site designs so that what they come up with is compatible with what AKC is spending an enormous amount of money to create.

Peter Piusz explained that the concept forward by Chris Walker is that you have an umbrella, which is the AKC, and that each parent club would have a web site that would fit that umbrella that allows the AKC to interact to promote your events and directly promote your registrations. Your parent club web site is a whole different issue. There was no expressed intent to link club web sites with the AKC web site. Don James, Leonberger Club of America, stated we need to be careful we don't get confused about the market place and our breed web sites. There should be a link on the AKC web site to the parent club web sites. There has to be some integration now that says this is how the pieces fit together.

Karen Dorn, Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, stated her club's liaison person had contacted AKC about the photos pictured on the web site breed page and the club subsequently submitted many photographs that have not been used. Additionally, there is no link to their parent club web site. The web site also indicated there were no breeders in her area and she is a Breeder of Merit.

Parent Club Recommended Health Testing, Peter Piusz: A year ago we were talking about an AKC on-line classified breeders' site. The concept was to post parent club health information. To do this, the committee asked for a written statement from each parent club in a document that is approved by their Board of Directors. Ninety-six of these were received from the parent clubs. They were all submitted to Chris and Mark Dunn has a copy. At this point we have no idea what is going to happen with these, but may know something by the September meeting. If there are clubs that still want to submit a statement, send this to Peter and he will forward it to the correct people.

Best Practices to Increase Club Participation and Membership, Steve Hamblin: Since Steve had to be at the Canine Health Committee Meeting, Anne Bowes read his report that included the following suggestions: 1) If you know of people in your breed who are NOT part of your parent club do you know why? If not, ask them what would make the club more enticing and engaging for them. 2) There are MEET UPS in several major cities across the US. Local breed clubs could be reaching out to ALL lovers of that particular breed. How do we engage pet owners to join us in appreciating our breeds? Perhaps the best way to manage this is by allowing pet owners to be ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. 3) We can't drive for membership or bemoan the loss of members when we allow club member actions and politics to dictate the "atmosphere" of our clubs. As we drive towards seeking increased memberships and retention of existing members we need to think about how to curb the unwanted behaviors that influence potential and existing members to run for the hills. Peter will get permission from Steve to publish his entire report on the Delegate List.

Breeder of Merit – Each Club Needs a List From AKC re: Breeders of Merit Listed for Their Club, Bill Feeney: At the last meeting there was a question whether parent clubs could get a list of Breeders of Merit so they could verify whether they are actually members of the parent club. The initial problem with accomplishing this is

there were 11,000 applications for Breeders of Merit that were filled out. One of the requirements is that you are a member of a club. The applicant may have listed a parent club, a local club or a local specialty club and because you only had to be a member of a club, only one club was verified. In some instances that was not the parent club. This would have required an individual to go through all those 11,000 applications and review again all listings of the clubs and pick out the parent club affiliations. It was estimated this would take 183 hours, or five man weeks of work to do this. So there was some reluctance to do it. There was later an effort (and it is still ongoing) to look at the breeder on-line classifieds and take the names of the individuals who say they are a member of their parent club. Alan Kalter had stated there was going to be a survey that was going to go out to all Breeders of Merit. The information would be captured in the AKC database and the parent clubs could then obtain that information. Pat Laurans added that when they looked at the time frame it was a little bit daunting. This past Friday they learned that by using Survey Monkey and designing a sheet that just listed the 192 parent clubs by their correct name, all an individual will have to do is check off what parent club they belong to or a box that says. "I belong to no parent club." They will be able to do this at little or no cost. Mari Beth O'Neill has confirmed that we can do a survey of all Breeders of Merit. The survey will ask these breeders to provide their current parent club affiliation. Staff will share the results of the survey with the parent clubs.

Peter Piusz explained that currently, the AKC On-Line Classifieds has three categories: 1) Breeders of Merit (any Breeder of Merit classified by AKC), 2) Members of AKC-Licensed Member Clubs (not parent clubs), and 3) Everyone else. Peter made a motion that this be extended to 5 categories. 1) Breeder of Merit from the parent club for this breed, 2) Breeder of Merit from any other club, 3) Member of a Parent club from this breed, 4) Member of any AKC club, 5) Everyone else. After lengthy discussion, the motion was seconded by Jo Patrick and passed unanimously. Peter then requested that we add the requirement in the on-line Breeder Classifieds that they state of what breed they are a Breeder of Merit. We want to affirm that the people who state they are a member of our club actually belong to our club. This has no impact on the Survey Monkey offer that we are happy to accept from the AKC. Pat Laurans added that what Peter is trying to establish is our basic gut-level moral belief in terms of what this should be. The other part of this is where the AKC Board and Staff are coming from, and that is to drive participation, registration, and membership and to raise monies. We want to work in concert with the goals of AKC and this is what we believe and the way we want it to happen. Kenny Saenz, Chihuahua Club of America, stated if the term Breeder of Merit is not registered this is useless. Bill Feeney indicated he made a note to propose this to the Board. Dominic Carota, Pharaoh Hound Club of America, suggested that before AKC becomes affiliated with Survey Monkey they should consider that Survey Monkey donated \$400,000.00 to HSUS last year and there may be other organizations that AKC could use.

AKC Initiatives e: Program to Recognize and Support Breeders Who Perform Health Testing Recommended by the Parent Club, Bill Feeney:

It was decided years ago that Canine Health and Welfare was an important objective of the American Kennel Club and a By-Law Amendment to that fact was passed. A tool to accomplish this was born and there have been various presentations to the Delegate Body. There has been a lot of support for this and the Bred With Heart Program has been accepted and grown. This is a program that has been designed for breeding healthier dogs so that the American public can be satisfied that they are getting a healthier puppy. At yesterday's Canine Health Foundation Meeting Cindy Vogels came up with a tagline, "Healthier puppies equal happier people." There are three basic components of this: 1) Health Testing. Breeders who want to participate in this program must certify they do the health testing recommended by the parent clubs. This is why it was important that the parent clubs gave AKC the list of health tests recommended by their club. Peter has worked diligently to get this information and the new information is being compiled. 2) Verification Through the Inspection Program. The AKC Inspections Department has been reviewing the recommended testing and if you want to be in the Bred With Heart Program you must certify you comply with the Care and Conditions Policy and that you do the health testing. When the inspectors go out they know what to look for and what to ask to verify you are in compliance. 3) The Breeder Education component is being developed on the web site. Most of this is based on Claudia Orlandi's material on Breeding Better Dogs that she donated to AKC. If you want to be a Breeder With Heart breeder you have to engage in annual education. AKC is working with a company to develop a test that can be taken on-line and if you pass the test you will receive a certificate indicating you have completed the course. In the past two weeks, 80 breeders have signed up for the program. Twenty have been inspected so far. Most of them have been in

compliance and those that were not are working to come into compliance. Anne Bowes stated she was part of a committee several years ago chaired by Pat Laurans that came up with good ideas regarding canine health and welfare that she suggested could be worked into this program. Mike Liosis added that the Inspectors will get together for a meeting in August to receive a detailed presentation by Staff Members so that this program is smoothly integrated. Karolynne McAteer, Irish Setter Club of America, commented that our health endeavor is the strongest thing we have in our fight with the animal rights people. Jo Patrick feels the Bred With Heart Program is geared more towards the commercial breeders while the Breeder of Merit Program is for breeders in the fancy, but both emphasize good care and conditions. Bill explained that every year 2.8 million puppies are purchased. Breeders in the fancy cannot breed enough to meet this demand. Those people who want a purebred dog are going to look for it somewhere. The heart of this program is to help ensure that these dogs have a chance at a better life. When the prospective buyers come to the market place, when they come to our on-line Breeder Classifieds, they are going to look for breeders of their breed of choice. They are not going to care what the distinction is between a Breeder of Merit and a Bred With Heart breeder. They are going to look for a breeder who is close by.

Judges' Approval, Bill Feeney: The first proposal was sent out to the fancy in October. At that time there were 750 responses. Based on those comments a second proposal was written that was sent out on April 30th with a May 21st deadline for comments. Now that the comment period has ended, Carmen Battaglia undertook the task of compiling the results of the 140 responses. Carmen reported there is overwhelming consensus that the framework of the Judging Approval Process was responsive to the suggestions and recommendations made earlier and it continues to be supported by the fancy and the judging community. The proposal is to be voted upon by the Board on Tuesday morning. Marjorie Tuff, American Shetland Sheepdog Association, stressed that judges are tired of constant changes and don't even want to bother with additional applications. She added that AKC just can't continue to change the approval process.

Pet Disaster Trailer, Pat Laurans: Our first check for the Disaster Trailers was received in September, 2013. We are just \$9,308.00 short of having raised one million dollars, \$250,000.00 of which came from AKC Reunite. Thanks to all who were part of this effort. Twenty-four trailers have currently been delivered. Eleven trailers are in the pipeline that are either in production or waiting for the final paperwork. There are sixteen areas that are actively raising funds.

Request re: Registration Statistics By Colors – To Each Parent Club – Reported Out: Four clubs have asked for registration statistics. You need to ask your clubs if this is something they are interested in. Jo Patrick, Schipperke Club of America, sent out a request for statistics by color on January 29th and did not receive an acknowledgement at that time. When she requested this it was not on club stationery as was required. Bill Feeney explained this type of request has to come from the parent club on official club stationery. Pat Laurans felt receipt of the request at least deserved an acknowledgement that it was received.

Low Entry Breeds, Bill Feeney: The question is how should points be awarded to the Best of Winners in the Low Entry Breeds? The proposal is to give Best of Winners the points based upon the number of class dogs in both sexes, not just the number of dogs in the larger of the two sexes. There were some concerns that were expressed. 1) Breeds that were not identified as low entry would not have the same opportunity for additional points. 2) It would be too easy for a dog to earn a championship. 3) There was no support from the Dog Show Rules Committee. As a result, the AKC Staff recommended that the idea not be pursued and the Board accepted that recommendation.

Parent Club Archives, Pat Laurans: Peter posted the Archivist's letter as to how he was proceeding. There had been a request from Harvey Mohrenweiser that we possibly appoint a task force from this committee to look into this. Peter Piusz read what the parameters might be. 1) How to go about collecting material that many of our older members have collected and stored in their basement or closet and which the kids would not likely have interest in and would likely be pitched when house cleaning time arrives with the loss of this insight and history. 2) How can/should historical material be stored in this increasing electronic age? Is electronic storage feasible and would it save space and make it more accessible to more people? Helen Prince volunteered to chair a committee to investigate this proposal. Catherine Sullivan, Field Spaniel Society of America; Betty Jo Patrick, Schipperke Club

of America; and Merile Waterstraat, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club also volunteered to work with Helen on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Show Secretaries, Pat Laurans: Jo Patrick read the following: “As parent clubs begin to work on their single most important event of the year, their National Specialty, a host of issues face them. Most parent clubs rotate the host site to allow people from all over the country an opportunity to attend more easily. Once the decision is made as to where the show will be held, then the work begins. Every year entries decline. In order to work around this, parent clubs constantly have to find ways to increase entries and hold down costs. Over the past fifteen years, parent clubs have found the cost of hiring a licensed superintendent to be prohibitive and have utilized the services of a Show Secretary. To cut costs even more, the position of On-Site Show Secretary has evolved. When the National Specialty changes location the official Show Secretary may stay the same, but the process of finding a new on-site person begins anew. My suggestion is we explore the possibility of creating a sub-committee from both the All-Breed and Parent Club Committee members who would contact All-Breed and Parent Clubs to request a list of people in their area who would be willing to be, or have been, on-site secretaries for their National Specialty. From this, a simple directory could be created so, if Sacramento, California were chosen as a host city, the parent club would be able to look in the directory and find a list of people in that area who were willing to serve as On-Site Show Secretary for their National Secretary. We spend a lot of time and effort every year trying to come up with new and creative ways to solve the same issues. This, I believe, would bring a resolution to this issue and from this the parent clubs can contact the people in their area. Karen Burgess, Greater Clark County Kennel Club, stated she has been doing this for twelve years. She and Marilyn Curry have clubs that use them from year-to-year. She does a lot of consulting and has worked with Katherine Sullivan and the Field Spaniel Society of America and thinks it is a great idea to put a committee together to explore this. She met with Alan Slay and Glen Lycan in Raleigh a couple of weeks ago and they have their concerns as to what AKC expects and possible on-site problems that have to be dealt with. She does not take entries but goes through all the major superintendents. They also have their concerns as to what they want. Pat Cruz questioned if someone does multiple shows that they need to be licensed. Mike Liosis read from Chapter 9, Section 2, Superintendents and Show Secretaries, “An individual wishing to service the shows of more than one All-Breed Dog Club in a calendar year must hold a license from the American Kennel Club as Superintendent.” National Specialties would not fall under this provision. Karen Burgess suggested there be a different terminology than Show Secretary such as “Site Facilitator.” The sub-committee composed of Jo Patrick, Karen Burgess, Marilyn Curry, Katherine Sullivan and Sally Vilas will address changing the title name and come up with a job description.

Certificate of Merit Proposal – 4 to 6 Month, Bill Feeney and Pat Laurans: Bill Feeney stated that at tomorrow’s Delegate Meeting there is a proposed amendment to Chapter 16 of The Rules Applying to Dog Shows that will be read and then voted upon at the September meeting. The proposal is to award a Certificate of Merit in the 4 – 6 Month Puppy Class. The reason for this is that in the past ten years there has been a troubling observation that the number of unique dogs has dropped significantly at our events. We’re wanting to get new people involved in our sport and in our clubs. The decline in the unique entries of dogs is 24 percent. It’s more troubling in the Puppy Classes. The people who come in and compete in the Puppy Classes, for whatever reason, sort of give up and there has been a 37% decline in puppy entries in the past ten years. Something needs to be done to try to encourage new people to come into the sport and new people generally come into the sport with their new puppy. They want to compete and they want to have a reason to keep going. This proposal is designed to do this. Dogs placing first in each of the individual puppy classes; Puppy Class, Miscellaneous Class Competition, the Four to Six Month Competition and the FSS Open Shows as well. All of them will be awarded points towards a certificate of Merit. The point schedule is as follows: One to two dogs in competition is one point. Three to four dogs in competition is two points. Five to eight dogs in competition is three points. Five to eight dogs in competition is four points. Thirteen or more dogs in competition is five points. Dogs achieving fifteen points receive a Certificate of Merit title. Another thing that is being proposed is that once you do get that Certificate of Merit, this will count as one point towards your championship. From what Pat Laurans is hearing and what is posted on the list, the Certificate of Merit is not a problem. Giving points towards a championship for dogs coming out of the Four to Six Month

Class is definitely a problem. Historically, championship points are for dogs that are six months and over and this is something we do not want to change. Pat suggested if Bill share the response given in this room regarding that part of the proposal it would stand a better chance of getting some support. The other thing Pat has been hearing is that it is probably unrealistic for anyone to be able to amass the 15 points out of the Four to Six Month Class. People would not be averse to a Certificate of Merit taking a longer period of time for a young puppy but they are really averse to any championship points coming out of this particular program. Bill Feeney stated this proposal is being read tomorrow and it is really up to the delegates to decide on a proposed rule change. Pat added that too many times we have a first reading and nobody says anything but when it comes to a vote all of a sudden it churns. If delegates feel strongly about this, the time to talk about this is tomorrow. Betty McDonnell, Norwich Terrier Club of America, asked if there could be points awarded for going "Best Puppy" and Bill felt this was something to consider and could be an amendment to this amendment. It's time to talk about it and if there are things that could be improved, let's work together to get it done.

Due to time constraints, on a motion by Jo Patrick the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mays, Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association
Secretary