

**THE EIGHTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE DELEGATE PARENT CLUB COMMITTEE**  
March 09, 2015

The March 9, 2015 meeting of the Delegate Parent Club Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Pat Laurans, at 1:00 P.M. at the Doubletree by Hilton Newark Airport Hotel in Newark, NJ.

**Committee Members Present:**

Anne Bowes	Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America
Karen Burgess	Greater Clark County Kennel Club
Connie Butherus	Afghan Hound Club of America
Pat Laurans	German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Karen Mays	Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association
John Nielsen	English Setter Association of America
Betty Jo Patrick	Schipperke Club of America
Peter Piusz	Rottweiler Club of America
Helen Prince	Scottish Terrier Club of America
Larry Sorenson	Dachshund Club of America
Karen Spey	American Pointer Club

**Also Present:**

Bill Feeny	AKC Board Liaison
Thomas Powers	AKC Board Liaison
Lee Arnold	AKC Board
Pat Cruz	AKC Board
Jim Dok	AKC Board
Charles Garvin	AKC Board
Alan Kalter	AKC Board
Harvey Wooding	AKC Board
Mike Liosis	AKC Staff
Chris Walker	AKC Staff
Susan Lily	AKC Canine Health Foundation

**Guests:**

Ricky Adams	Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club
Wanda Allen	Saratoga New York Kennel Club
Diane Almy	Central New York Kennel Club
Michelle Anderson	Pug Dog Club of America
Charles Arnold	Fort Lauderdale Kennel Club
Jeffrey David Ball	Ramapo Kennel Club
Robert Bergman	Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America
Roberta Berman	American Manchester Terrier Club
Bob Bostrom	Topeka Kennel Club
Kit Bostrom	Saint Bernard Club of America
Lisa Boyer	American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association
Virginia Brookings	Shreveport Kennel Club
Bob Brown	Great Pyrenees Club of America
Kathi Brown	Ladies Dog Club
John Buddie	Collie Club of America
Suzanne Burgess	English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Assn.
Marge Caltharp	Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
Becky Campbell	Mastiff Club of America

Katie Campbell  
William Christensen  
Connie Clark  
Judy Colan  
Cindy Collins  
Sharon Collins  
Ann Mariah Cook  
Warren Cook  
Ann Cookson  
Kathy Coxwell  
Marilyn Curry  
Margaret Curtis  
Marilyn DeGregorio  
Dominic DiBalsi  
Margaret DiCorleto  
Karen Dorn  
Peggy Doster  
Jeffrey Drogan  
Bill Dumas  
Eddie Dziuk  
Bob Eisele  
Joyce Engle  
Mary Alice Eschweiler  
Treva Faires  
Martha Feltenstein  
Al Ferrugiaro  
Mary Ellen Fishler  
Nancy Fisk  
Linda Flynn  
Jacquelyn Fogel  
Christiana Gaburri  
Deidre Gannon  
Lynn Garvin  
Mike Gibson  
Robert Gloster  
Pam Goldman  
Kara Gordon  
Richard Grant  
Joellen Gregory  
Pat Grossman  
Steven Hamblin  
Susan Hamil  
Russ Hastings  
Ellen Hardin  
Scott Holmes  
Mike Houchard  
Eugenia Hunter  
Helen Ingher  
Don James  
Patricia Kanan  
Sara Karl  
Patte Klecan

Basenji Club of America  
Australian Terrier Club of America  
American Fox Terrier Club  
Weimaraner Club of America  
Genesee County Kennel Club  
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America  
Siberian Husky Club of America  
Southern Oregon Kennel Club  
Illinois Capital Kennel Club  
Bearded Collie Club of America  
American Chinese Crested Club  
Greenwich Kennel Club  
Taconic Hills Kennel Club  
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club  
Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club  
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America  
Kennel Club of Buffalo  
Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club  
Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association  
National Beagle Club  
Suffolk County Kennel Club  
Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club  
Waukesha Kennel Club  
Wichita Kennel Club  
American Tibetan Mastiff Association  
US Lakeland Terrier Club  
Poodle Club of America  
Hockamock Kennel Club  
South Shore Kennel Club  
Kettle Moraine Kennel Club  
Old English Sheepdog Club of America  
German Pinscher Club of America  
Marion Ohio Kennel Club  
Briard Club of America  
Sammamish Kennel Club  
Chaparral Kennel Club  
Bulldog Club of Philadelphia  
Providence County Kennel Club  
Otterhound Club of America  
Skokie Valley Kennel Club  
Pacific Coast Pekingese Club  
Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association  
Elmira Kennel Club  
Golden Retriever Club of America  
Lexington Kennel Club  
Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia  
Irish Wolfhound Club of America  
Pasco Florida Kennel Club  
Leonberger Club of America  
American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club  
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America  
American Bouvier des Flandres Club

Paul Kouski  
Andrew Kramer  
Adele Keyfel  
Stacey LaForge  
Sanda Launey  
Stephen Lawrence  
John Lewis  
Karen Luckey  
John McCullagh  
Jack McDaniel  
Mary McDaniel  
Betty McDonnell  
Harold Miller  
Harvey Mohrenweiser  
Aletta Moore  
Vivian Moran  
Jaimie Mulvey  
Bob Newcomb  
Jeanette Nieder  
Beverly Nosiglia  
Jeannette O'Hanlon  
Nancy O'Neal  
Mary Lou Olszewski  
Naida Parker  
Diane Pearson  
Patricia Peel  
Barbara Penny  
Claudia Pierro  
Carol Plesur  
Billie Ponton  
Doug Raport  
Richard Rohrbacher  
John Ronald  
Pamela Rosman  
Joyce Rowland  
Jane Ruthford  
Kenny Saenz  
Kathy Sanders  
Patricia Sarles  
John Sawicki  
Joan Savage  
Nina Schaefer  
Abbe Shaw  
Nancy Shaw  
Johnny Shoemaker  
Adrienne Soler  
Giselle Simonds  
Nance Olson Skoglund  
Cindy Stansell  
Katherine Sullivan  
Christopher Sweetwood  
Kathryn Taylor

Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club  
Norfolk Terrier Club  
Yakima Valley Kennel Club  
Tibetan Terrier Club of America  
Basset Hound Club of America  
??? Toy Dog Club  
Sussex Spaniel Club of America  
Spinone Club of America  
Blennerhassett Kennel Club  
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America  
Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club  
Norwich Terrier Club of America  
American Foxhound Club  
Standard Schnauzer Club of America  
Airedale Club of America  
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America  
Asheville Kennel Club  
Bulldog Club of America  
Merrimack Valley Kennel Club  
Kanasaga Kennel Club  
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America  
Rio Grande Kennel Club  
American Bloodhound Club  
Wampanoag Kennel Club  
Bedlington Terrier Club of America  
Alaskan Malamute Club of America  
Hutchinson Kennel Club  
Yorkshire Terrier Club of America  
Italian Greyhound Club of America  
Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club  
Irish Terrier Club of America  
Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America  
Samoyed Club of America  
Caanan Dog Club of America  
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America  
Havanese Club of America  
Chihuahua Club of America  
Union County Kennel Club  
Twin Brooks Kennel Club  
Keeshond Club of America  
Portland Kennel Club  
Back Mountain Kennel Club  
Santa Barbara Kennel Club  
San Antonio Kennel Club  
Redwood Empire Kennel Club  
Woodstock Dog Club  
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America  
Gordon Setter Club of America  
Finnish Spitz Club of America  
Field Spaniel Society of America  
Trap Falls Kennel Club  
Mount Ogden Kennel Club

Marjorie Tuff  
Bruce Van Deman  
Kat Vogel  
Lynn Worth Smith  
Fran Stephens  
Maggi Strouse  
Harold Tatro  
Mike Teeling  
Judy Tighe  
Elizabeth Tilley-Poole  
Robert Urban  
Mike VanTassell  
Janet Van Wormer  
Sally Vilas  
Bruce Voran  
Sherry Wallace  
Marile Waterstraat  
Kim Washington  
Lori Webster  
Meg Weitz  
Deborah Wilkins  
Carole Wilson  
Tom Worley  
Mary Yoders

American Shetland Sheepdog Association  
English Toy Spaniel Club of America  
Tidewater Kennel Club  
Vizsla Club of America  
Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers  
National Shiba Club of America  
Fort Worth Kennel Club  
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the US  
American Brittany Club  
Pekingese Club of America  
American Black and Tan Coonhound Club  
Intermountain Kennel Club  
Doberman Pinscher Club of America  
American Shih Tzu Club  
American Boxer Club  
Akita Club of America  
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)  
Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America  
Norwegian Elkhound Association of America  
Devon Dog Show Association  
St. Croix Valley Kennel Club  
Belle City Kennel Club  
Clackamas Kennel Club  
Mountaineer Kennel Club

Committee and Guests introduced themselves. On a motion by Karen Spey the minutes of the December 11, 2014 meeting were approved as printed.

**Remembering our Friend and Committee Member, Bill Blair, Pat Laurans and Connie Butherus:** Pat announced that on February 6, 2015, Bill Blair, our long-time committee member, passed away. He was a unique and loving man who took good care of those he was close to and he will be terribly missed. Connie's tribute included information that Bill had a 100% attendance record in nearly 45 years as a delegate.

**New Committee Appointment, Pat Laurans:** As the next highest vote-getter in the last committee elections, Helen Prince will replace Bill Blair on the Parent Club Committee.

**Parent Club Delegate L and Parent Club Conference L:** Pat Laurans stated our goal is to have every single delegate on the list. She asked that each delegate contact their board members and urge them to join the list and the Parent Club Conference List. People wishing to be added to the list should contact John Nielsen, [nielsenjp@yahoo.com](mailto:nielsenjp@yahoo.com) or Peter Piusz, [ppiusz@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ppiusz@nycap.rr.com).

**A Conversation on the Future of AKC.org; Pat Laurans and Chris Walker.** Pat introduced Chris Walker, who has developed the new AKC web site, and emphasized how important it is that we learn how to communicate with one another and to do it in a positive way. Chris stated he stands behind the strategy of the new site but admits the execution could have been better. He gave a quick run-through as to why this was a necessity, what the goals are and how we can get together to achieve them. AKC had spent 12 months looking at the old web site which had had two overhauls in the last five years leaving them with a fragmented site that needed to be corrected. The main issue was a technology issue in trying to reach a larger audience. When Chris took over almost two years ago there were about 1,000,000 visits a month. This has grown to 4,000,000 visits. Of this, only 8% of the audience that comes to the web site comes from the fancy. The other 92% is the general dog-owning public of which 75% of the audience lands on the breed pages. The breed pages are the mission critical part of the web site and that's where he needs our help to get these pages right. We need to correct them and get them to where they are the best way to market the

benefits of your breed, the reason you fell in love with your breed and why all America should fall in love with your breed. The people who are on these pages are looking to find which breed is the right dog for them, a breeder who breeds that breed, or things to do with the dog that's already a part of their family. Every breed is facing the same challenges. How do we get more people into the breed, how do we get younger people interested and how do we grow the sport? The only way to do this is to open things up and start to encourage people, nurture them, and encourage them to come to our events. Chris acknowledged that there has been an issue with some of the pictures that have been used on the pages and that we need to do a better job so that there are better representations of the breeds. He also encouraged people to include pictures of their pet dogs. When they took the social media to over 4,000,000 visits they stopped using pictures of wins and started to showcase family shots. There have been a lot of issues with the web site and they are addressing these. The main issues should be fixed in the next couple of weeks. These include the log-in issues. If anyone has any issues, feel free to call the IT Department, 212-696-8232 for Chris to put you in touch with where you want to go, or contact AKC Communications @akc.org, or call directly at 1-919-233-9747. They really need our help to get things right in revising the contents. Some people have wanted to include health issues, but Chris reminded everyone of the troubles connected with hybrid vigor. The animal rightists used this against us stating mixed-breed dogs are healthier than purebreds, so we do not want to use any negative connotations. Health aspects placed on the web site should be pro-active and positive.

How can the parent clubs get involved with the Communications Department so that we can get the right information on our breed pages? One suggestion has been that we request that your Board designate an individual to be the repository of your Parent Club's concerns, plaudits and wishes and that this person be authorized to work with the Communications Department. A letter will be written to Mr. Crowley asking to send this request to the parent clubs. It will be each delegate's job to get this going. If we want this to work and we want the contents to be accurate we're going to have to do this together. Pat will be going to the Coordinating Committee to get permission to go forward with this. Several delegates indicated their clubs have already been contacted about this. Chris indicated there has been a massive overhaul of the Online Breeder Classified that should be completed in the next 30 days. Helen Prince, Scottish Terrier Club of America asked whether the health information that Peter Piusz has been asking clubs for would be placed on the web site. Anne Bowes, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, stated that Kathi Brown wrote the description on the Scottish Terrier for the *Complete Dog Book*. Since this has already been parent club approved she asked if this could go on the web site since the clubs own what they wrote and AKC has signed releases for this information. Chris felt this was a great idea. Martha Feltenstein, American Tibetan Mastiff Association, feels it is inappropriate to use photos on the breed pages of dogs currently being campaigned because these pages are not meant as advertisements.

**Project re: Best Practices for Increasing Club Participation and Membership, Pat Laurans and Stephen Hamblin.** At our last committee meeting Bill Feeney encouraged clubs to have an open-door policy for club membership and Stephen Hamblin, Pacific Coast Pekingese Club, was asked by Pat Laurans to come up with additional ideas for clubs to increase club membership. Stephen explained that he is soliciting information from clubs on what their practices are to increase membership and encourage participation. Since club membership is dwindling we are looking for ways to encourage people to join our clubs and what we can do to keep our members happy and renewing year after year. Clubs that are having a lot of success are clubs that are doing some form of social outreach whether it is a picnic or a barbeque or some form of physical activity where they encourage people who are both club members and non-club members to meet in a social environment and talk about their dogs. It's a great way for people to interact on a level playing field. A couple of tactics that some clubs are using are to go through catalogs from all-breed shows and national specialties to find people that are involved in exhibiting but are not club members and reaching out to them with welcoming letters and invitations to meetings so these people can see if they want to become involved. Another tactic is to have a committee contact members who have not renewed and encourage them to continue their membership. One way to ensure that individuals feel they are appreciated is for clubs to hold a holiday or awards dinner where members are given some sort of recognition or award. Accomplishments such as a dog finishing its championship or numbers of champions bred should be acknowledged. Members should be honored for the contributions they have made. Stephen asked that anyone who has information about what their club is doing to email him at [dancinglionpekingese@gmail.com](mailto:dancinglionpekingese@gmail.com) and he will continue to add these

suggestions to the list. Peter Piusz volunteered to place this request on the Parent Club Delegate List. Stephen added that there is a great article in *Dogs in Review* on this topic.

**CGC Title Numbers, Tom Powers:** Tom was happy to report that this is a program that keeps rolling along. The last number he got was 29,300 in the program. To put that in perspective, in December the number was 27,300 and this past September it was 22,600.

**Parent Club Legislative Liaison, Anne Bowes:** Anne stated that the following information comes from Sheila Goffe, [she@akc.org](mailto:she@akc.org). The AKC Parent Club Legislation Liaison (LL) List officially launched on January 14<sup>th</sup> and there are currently 5 members. AKC sent a second invitation to parent club LLs via Yahoo as well as an instructional email from AKC GR on January 30<sup>th</sup> to those liaisons who had indicated interest but had not yet joined the group. 18 messages, including AKC Legislative Alerts have been posted to the site. This is not a huge level of activity, but this is a relatively new group, and it may take some time for people to get used to using it or commenting publicly on it. All parent club LLs are encouraged to use the list and to share information about legislation and their legislative activities on it. The list is a closed list and provides a great opportunity for parent club LLs to learn from and about the legislative and public education experiences that other parent club LLs encounter. Anyone who would like an additional invitation should contact [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) or Sarah Sprouse at 919-816-3928. If you have any questions, contact Anne at [heronsway.corgis@verizon.net](mailto:heronsway.corgis@verizon.net).

**Parent Club Rescue Alliance – L – Group, Peter Piusz:** Peter has already posted the Rescue Report to the Parent Club Delegate List. There are currently 159 members and that includes 70 parent club delegates. Out of 174 parent clubs 85 have members of the Rescue List, 42 have nominated members, and 47 clubs have no response. Our challenge right now is we have 169 invitations that have not been returned. Peter posted this information on the Rescue List. The biggest issue was listing clubs that had said, “no rescue” or had not responded. If your club is on the list that does not have rescue they will be receiving emails as to “why?”

**Dock and Crop, Peter Piusz:** This is a discussion group regarding dock and crop issues. At today’s meeting they will be talking about the *Canine Chronicle* article and how to respond. They are also going to discuss the PPCA Judges’ Letter. Their targets are 1) to start researching the incidents and type of ear and tail injuries by breed; 2) build a data base on how this practice is done and 3) start a grant program to study the effect of docking and cropping on puppies. If there is any legislation on the docket they can alert everybody in the country about this.

**Recommended Health Testing, Peter Piusz:** To date we have 66 clubs. This information has also been placed on the Delegate Parent Club List. Since then he has received Italian Greyhounds and Gordon Setters. What they asked for was for parent clubs, in their own words, to describe the health concerns they have for their breeds. The idea is to have something that the public can understand. What your concerns are for the breed and how they are tested. They asked that the description be approved by your club’s Board of Directors. They have asked for a document that is on the site and keeps you on the site rather than going elsewhere for information. Peter indicated they have been doing this for six months but they are going to stop since they are not getting enough responses. They see this as a huge issue but have seen very little response from the parent clubs despite all the work this committee has put in. They will continue to collect for the next three weeks then see where we are and then make decisions as to what to do after that.

**Breeders of Merit – Each Parent Club Needs a List From AKC re: Breeders of Merit Listed for Their Club, Bill Feeney:** For a number of meetings we have been requesting that the parent clubs be provided a list from AKC stating which Breeders of Merit have indicated that they belong to their parent club. Bill Feeney stated that in the beginning it did not have to be a parent club, just any club. Some people listed all their club affiliations, but only one club was needed, not necessarily a parent club. Alan Kalter explained that the requirement stated that you had to be a member of an AKC club. Unfortunately, none of this was captured and we don’t have the ability now to go into the database and pull up the information. However, since it’s been a few years since this program was initiated, the Breeder of Merit population rose rapidly, but now it has tapered off. We have a little under 12,000 members. About one third of them are not active breeders. AKC would like to get an update of those members so they are

going to query all 12,000 Breeders of Merit as to whether they are still breeding. They also want to know what clubs they belong to. They will be able to enter all of these responses into a database and will let us know when they have the information so that parent clubs can request the list. Pat Laurans emphasized that once the data is captured each parent club can request an annual report showing which individuals are saying they are a member of their parent club. We need to work together on this so that the end result is what we want it to be.

**AKC Initiatives re: Program To Recognize and Support Breeders Who Perform Health Testing Recommended By The Parent Club, Bill Feeney:**

Alan Kalter stated the public is interested in a healthy purebred dog. Health testing is available to us as breeders. If you use this you can improve the health of your breed over time. It has to begin somewhere and eventually the breeding stock in your breed will be improved. The Breed With Heart Program is designed to do just that. Breeders have to adhere to the following guidelines: 1) Perform health tests recommended by your breed club and this must be verified in writing; 2) Pass a Care and Condition Inspection; 3) Participate in a Continuing Education Program that you will be able to access on the AKC micro site available to breeders; 4) Breeders who have passed all of these hurdles is now classified as a Breeder With HEART (which is an anachronism for health, education, accountability, responsibility and tradition). Those who receive this title will be listed on the new on-line Breeder Classified site. AKC wants some way to identify those breeders who are not Breeders of Merit but follow these guidelines. The public is going to be educated to understand what their conversation with a breeder should be. The bottom line is we will improve the health of dogs over time. Alan was asked earlier today if there are cheats, and of course there will be some who cheat. A good example is with income taxes. If you get audited you should be able to prove the validity of your tax statement. But, the majority of people pay their taxes on the honor system. AKC is going to check these people on a random basis and they are going to find some cheats. On the other side, how many breeders would have done health screening without this program?

**Judges Approval, Tom Powers:** When Tom came on the Board three years ago he thought this process was in place but, as it turned out, he was wrong. The Board did something he felt was unprecedented in AKC history. It actually sent out this proposal for comments before any action was taken and they received a lot of comments. Many were favorable, some of them were not favorable but that is not what was important. The important thing was that they got a lot of feedback from a lot of people who are invested in the system. There is now a new draft of the policy that is significantly different than what was circulated in the past. Staff has had a big input on this and have modified their position. Once it is “massaged” at the next Board Meeting they’re going to send it out again. If you want to read it and comment on it, this would be the time to do so. There were some complaints the last time that the response time was a little short. Be on notice that this is coming out. Take a look at it. Let the Board know what you think and where it should be changed and they will go forward.

**Pet Disaster Trailer, Pat Laurans:** This program started 18 months ago. Nineteen trailers have been delivered and there are nine more trailers in the pipeline thanks to the good works of individuals and of your clubs. At this point in time \$866,119.00 to the Trailer Disaster Fund. We’ve had some good coverage in different areas about what is going on. And, they’ve already been used. There was a nursing home fire in Maryland and that trailer was there in short order. People were coming out of the fire with their pets and they were provided for. This is what it’s all about. Whether it’s the Humane Fund, the Trailer Program, or Take the Lead, we are a family and we take care of our own. Tom Powers had occasion to go to the Silver Bay Kennel Club Show about two weeks ago. Alan Kalter and Tom Sharp were there. The three all-breed clubs in San Diego County and three specialty clubs and obedience clubs gathered together and purchased three trailers and a fourth one almost paid for. Tom was there for the ceremony when they delivered them to the county and felt privileged to be there on behalf of AKC.

**Request re: Registration Statistics by Colors – Reported Out; Bill Feeney:** Bill stated that AKC will provide information to any club wanting to know the statistics on coat colors, but the request has to come from the parent club on official letterhead, not from individuals. Contact Mari Beth O’Neill or Mark Dunn.

**Low Entry Breeds, Pat Laurans:** Connie Butherus read the letter that this committee sent to Alan Slay. “Thank you for querying the Parent Club Committee regarding the problems that exist for Low Entry Breeds. We have looked at the statistics, your information and suggestions, and have the following comments. The Parent Club

Committee discussed it at our meeting, and as you know you and I have had several conversations regarding this topic. To summarize some of our thoughts and suggestions: 1) We support the implementation of the following suggestions as long as all are done in regards to the various regional point scales. 2) At the present time a class dog/bitch that wins the group gets the greatest number of points awarded in any breed behind them. We would encourage you to look into the same for the other 3 group placements. 3) In low entry breeds we would encourage the proposal in your document that detailed a potential rule change as to the ways points are regarding Best of Winners: the combining of sexes: combine the total regular class dogs and regular class bitches when calculating the number of competitors. The number of points earned will be based on the number of competitors required according to the Best of Winners' sex, breed/variety, and points schedule division (based on the geographic location of the show). 4) We believe that the proposal will be best served if it is thoroughly vetted by the Executive Field Staff at their meetings this coming week and by the Judges Department. Thank you for asking for our input. Pat Laurans, Parent Club Committee, Chair." Pat indicated we have not yet received a response but hope they are working on it.

**Introduction and Comments from Susan Lily – AKC Canine Health Foundation, Pat Laurans:** Pat Laurans introduced Susan Lily from the Canine Health Foundation. Ms. Lily started at the Foundation in October and thanked everyone for their welcome. In listening to the topics covered at today's meeting, many of the topics stressed health and the health of our dogs. Ms. Lily encouraged all to remind themselves and their clubs how wonderfully they have supported the Canine Health Foundation and for supporting the tests that we are now being encouraged to use. Many of them are developed from research and without the support of the Donor Advised Funds and other areas of support that have been provided the Foundation would not have the resources to find answers. They will build on these health concerns. They want to hear what specific breeds are interested in but they also want to know what the public's concerns are. That no matter where their dog comes from or where their dog is living that they have the healthiest dog with the longest life possible. She invited parent club participation in the Health Conference that will be held August 7, 8 and 9 in St. Louis at Purina Farms. Clubs can send a representative at half the cost, \$250.00.

**Meet the Breed Booth Report for Florida and New York, Mike Liosis:** At the February Meet the Breeds the attendance was a shade over 20,000 which was a one day event and there were 140 participating clubs. In Orlando, the three day event yielded 31,000 in attendance with 162 parent clubs. Pat indicated it was a wonderful event in New York and the people involved did a really great job under less than ideal circumstances - not only for the people who brought their dogs to the booths but for the lines of people who were out in the cold. In some instances, through the generosity of the Westminster Kennel Club, some attendees were invited to come in and watch Agility because they might not get in there. Pat has received a number of communications from people involved with parent clubs with some suggestions for logistics. She assumes that AKC and Westminster are working on this because what we are hearing is they want to do this, but want to do it in a safe, convenient environment for our dogs and for everyone in the building. If you have any comments send them to Gina DiNardo, Michael Canalizo or Mike Liosis because we want this to be a real successful event. Mike Liosis explained they tried to alleviate some of the crowding issues, but basically they were told they only had the two elevators available and they could not use anything else because this was a security issue. People did not listen and one of the elevators was taken out of service for a while. People were waiting on line an hour and a half and even more because the Fire Department regulations only allow for "x" number of people. They will try to manage it and regulate it in a lot better fashion so that people are not inconvenienced. Tom Powers agreed there was a huge line, but all the people he spoke with were happy with the event and, although logistically it is difficult, overall it was a big hit. Betty Tilley, Pekingese Club of America, felt one of the biggest problems was the conflict with the concurrent specialties at the Pennsylvania Hotel. It's hard to balance this since there are 3 clubs involved. Peter Piusz spoke for the people who brought dogs in for the event. Parking was a huge issue. Westminster published a parking list and none of these places exist. Some lots do not take vans, only cars. Some people walked fifteen blocks with all their equipment and their dogs. Mary Ellen Fischler, Poodle Club of America said the booths should not have been gated off since there was not enough room in the aisles. A consensus in the room is that the facility is not big enough and is there any way the space could be better utilized. Alan Kalter felt the event was incredible and we should all be thrilled about that. People were willing to wait outside in the cold in order to see our dogs. Discussions with Westminster during and after the event



leads Alan to feel there is a very good solution to make this work next year. A lot was learned. No one expected the turn-out that we got with a new venue and a new date.

**Parent Club of Excellence Project, Larry Sorenson:** There have been four self-evaluation distributions been made and another one will be sent out in the next few weeks. There is somewhere in the high 20's number of people who have responded. Larry encouraged more people to respond. The committee is seeing trends and more parent clubs are gaining confidence in this. They are going to try to find new ways to assure the clubs about confidentiality. There is 180 years of parent club involvement between the four committee members. Parent clubs only meet a few times a year – sometimes only once face-to-face. The committee is going to take a look at what might be a more effective way to communicate.

**Outreach to Parent Clubs in the Sporting and Hound Breeds, Connie Butherus and John Nielsen.** This started out with the Field Trial Committee. They were looking for ways to get people more involved in Performance Events. What they were looking at reviewing and updating the information that goes out and their focus was on all the activities, not just conformation, not just companion, but performance events. They decided this was beyond the scope of the Field Trial Committee. Connie & John met with the Field Trial Committee and they are looking at a proposal to the Coordinating Committee that they have a Task Force to look at this. The goal is to increase communication to new owners. When they pulled up all the brochures that are sent out with the registrations, many of them were vastly outdated. The plea is going to be for all the parent clubs to look and update the information that goes out and to have current contact information. This outreach involves more than the Parent Club, Field Trial and Hunt Test Committees. It also involves Herding, Earth Dog and Companion Events. The goal is to encourage people who purchase dogs to become active in events that meet their needs. Connie and John will be representatives to that Task Force.

**AKC/Eukanuba Show Video, Chris Walker:** Pat Laurans stated she hoped that everyone had the opportunity to look at the AKC Show on television. It was a good presentation and a wise decision she assumes came from the Board that we needed to do this and we needed to own it so we could take control of the conversation. She feels it worked and there are many ancillary things that are going to come as a result. Chris Walker said the Lifetime Show was a success and he was grateful that the Board approved this. It was a great commercial for us and what we do and it's available on line. You can watch it on the AKC web site. They are looking for other television opportunities for it to re-air. Chris referred to the marketplace effort. All of our problems seem to come back to the same goal of trying to get more people involved. The first will be the club marketplace. A place for every club to put a PH on the AKC web site where clubs will be able to share their pictures, events, and contact information. They are going to start with clubs and then move on to breeders. A lot of clubs are confronted with the same problems. It costs too much money to maintain a web site and clubs are not able to get people to look at their web site. It is hoped they can solve both of these problems. They are going to throw in the ability for clubs to use their data base so you can target your dog owners directly. They think they can offer this for a little under \$100.00 a year. This is much cheaper than paying someone to host a web site much less updating information on the site. Clubs will have full service from AKC. The footage is going to be continued to be shown on the AKC Web Site. They are also going to use it for various educational programs. They have a videographer who just launched something that had over one million views. That footage is going to be valuable for a very long time.

**Allowing Local Specialty Clubs to Hold Two Days of Shows Per Year, Peter Piusz:** The February 5th Board Minutes title say, "Limiting Specialty Clubs to Two Days of Shows Per Year." This is a clarification of what should have been said. The Board reviewed a memo from Staff that looked at modifying the Limited Number of Events Policy to allow specialty clubs to hold two days of shows per calendar year rather than two shows per calendar year. "This will be discussed further at the March Meeting." When Peter first saw this he was concerned because two days doesn't seem like much. This is Alan Slay's response. "It's my understanding that there was some confusion about the proposal that was modified to allow two days of specialty shows per year. There was no attempt to limit parent clubs to two days of shows per year. I have updated the proposal so that it clearly notes that we are expanding the number of shows to be held by local specialty clubs. This proposal would allow more local specialty shows by allowing local specialties to have up to two shows per day at two shows per year instead of just two shows

per year. Parent clubs are not affected by this portion of the proposal”. Peter will scan this and put it on the parent club’s web site so you can read it because the language is not clear. It was questioned how this came about without coming through this committee. Board member, Harvey Wooding, explained that the Board has challenged our Staff to come up with new initiatives. To knock down barriers that would allow our exhibitors to attend more events. There was no intention to by-pass the committee and certainly this committee would be involved in any process that would involve passing a rule, bringing the proposal to the Dog Show Rules Committee if that were the case. Jeffrey Drogin, Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, thinks this is a great idea and feels holding two shows in one day would attract more entries. The only additional costs would be trophies and hiring a second judge. Bob Newcomb, Bulldog Club of America suggested looking at a 100 dog entry restriction because of time limits.

**Letter from the Standard Schnauzer Club – re: Archiving, Pat Laurans:** Pat turned this over to Harvey Mohrenweiser since this is his breed. They have contacted Craig Sovino, the AKC Archivist, who is head of the details and asked him what is happening with the archiving project; what clubs are in the queue and how far along they are; what collections are being looked at and how to move forward. Peter is going to post this on the Parent Club Delegate L.

**General Discussion, Pat Laurans:** Cathy Rubens, Fayetteville Kennel Club, stated at the All-Breed Committee Meeting this morning they announced they had gleaned information from almost 900 responses in regards to attracting new members. A preliminary report will be on the Delegate Portal and they will do a full report in June. The Committee is now embarking on collecting suggested questions for events. They passed out 200 cards but only 7 or 8 were returned so they are hoping for more suggestions on this topic.

Debbie Wilkins, St. Croix Kennel Club, asked Chris Walker if they can use their breed page to advertise RDO Day or any other activities or events. Chris explained they have a good search engine for things you can do with dogs so her club would be able to harness that. The profile would be [www.akc.org/chriswalker](http://www.akc.org/chriswalker). It’s built so there would be a continual home page on AKC.org listing events within your location. The more events they are able to list, the happier their constituents will be.

Fran Stephens, Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, stated her concern was with pet people posting photos on the breed pages. Christ Walker understands this concern and explained this was something they had wrestled back and forth with. It was determined that if these people are turned away this plays into our reputation of being elitist. These are the people we want to bring into the fold. Fran asked if these photos could be placed in a different location on the site but Chris explained they do not want to create tiers of “us” and “them” because then it becomes hard to pull this together. Jo Patrick, Schipperke Club of America, understands where Chris is coming from but she does not want to see a dog with disqualifying features pictured on her breed page. Pat Laurans stated she appreciates what Chris is saying and added we’re trying to get some feedback and hopes there is a middle ground we all can get to. If there are things that are very important to a parent club, in terms of something that misrepresents what is appropriate for their breed, the best way to deal with it is to very politely get in touch with [communications@akc.org](mailto:communications@akc.org) and say that, “our club has a problem with this”, and this is the way to work things out. Pat added that we’ve had the privilege of having Chris come to our meeting to discuss how we can do things better. The last thing in the world she wants to happen is the attitude that “we don’t want this and we’re going to fight it.” “We’re going to work together on this because if we don’t work together there’s nothing left to fight.” Pat thanked Chris for his contribution to the meeting and the delegates for their input. There are people working very hard doing the best they can. They may not be getting us there as quickly as we want but we need them. If we run them off this is a mistake. Pat urged each attendee to thank Chris for being here and to continue to work with us so we can work together as a club of clubs and as people who love our breeds and our sport. We don’t want Staff to feel we are against them. They and the Board are all we’ve got. We need to reach out and be thankful for what they do and let them know we appreciate it.

On a motion by Connie Butherus, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mays, Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association  
Secretary