

**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**  
**Delegates Meeting**  
**June 8, 2015**

Mr. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The National Anthem was played.

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dais: Chairman, Ronald H. Menaker; Vice Chairman, Carl C. Ashby III; Doris Abbate, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Jim Crowley, Executive Secretary; and Sara Killian, the Court Reporter.

The Chair informed the Delegates of the passing of two Delegates. Charles Schaefer died on March 23rd. He was the Delegate for the Kennel Club of Philadelphia since September 8th, 1997.

Ken Marden passed on May 31st. Ken served as the Delegate for the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, since September 10, 1974, for a total of 41 years. Ken served on the AKC Board of Directors from 1986 until 2006 and he was our President from 1987 through 1990.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting:  
Michelle Barlak, to represent Ibizan Hound Club of the United States  
Keith D. Hanson, to represent Bichon Frise Club of America  
Dr. Michael Knight, to represent Texas Kennel Club  
Elizabeth Omeara, to represent Rhode Island Kennel Club  
Patricia Putman, to represent Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America  
Kay Richardson, to represent Corn Belt Kennel Club  
Dianne Tyree, to represent Tibetan Spaniel Club of America  
Deborah Wade, to represent Evansville Kennel Club  
Bruce D. Wartlieb, to represent Antelope Valley Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval, were introduced from the floor.

Michelle Barlak, to represent Ibizan Hound Club of the United States  
Sally Fineburg, to represent Hatboro Dog Club  
Keith D. Hanson, to represent Bichon Frise Club of America  
Dr. Michael Knight, to represent Texas Kennel Club  
Elizabeth Omeara, to represent Rhode Island Kennel Club  
Dianne Tyree, to represent Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

The minutes of the March 2015 Delegates meeting were published in the April 2015 online AKC Gazette and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

The Chair called on Ronald Menaker, who gave the Chairman's report as follows:  
For so many of us, showing dogs is the greatest hobby we have ever engaged in. It is a passion that figures dominantly in our social lives, friendships and families - throughout our weekends, vacations and indeed, our whole lives.

Hobbies can take a toll on the bank account, as any dog fancier knows. And surely breeding and exhibiting, with all of their related expenses, is not a lucrative undertaking. But while we fanciers are doing all that it takes to keep the engine of our sports running by entering and attending dog shows, our associated actions are producing significant financial benefits to the community at large.

In March, the American Kennel Club launched a survey to determine just how much exhibitors are spending as a result of enjoying our sports, and what entities are reaping those benefits. It is our hope that the results will help clubs secure venues for their events and perhaps even assist our legislative and public relations efforts on behalf of our sports.

A new brochure about our learnings will be developed so that club members and other dog fanciers can share this information with lawmakers, chambers of commerce, show sites and the media.

Last year, more than nineteen thousand AKC events hosted over three million entries of more than two hundred thirty thousand dogs. These events were supported by more than two hundred thousand participants throughout the year, not including the general public. Events were held in every state, with the highest concentration occurring in the Midwest region.

Showing dogs is a labor of love, as well as time and money. Our local communities should see AKC events not only as a source of public enjoyment, but also as a generator of income and employment. I am happy to say that our research returned some very insightful results which drive home the fact that AKC events are a boon to local economies.

We sent a survey to over eighty-four thousand people who have entered an AKC dog event in the past twelve months to learn about their spending habits when they travel to events.

Over fourteen thousand people completed the survey for an impressive response rate of seventeen percent. Twenty five percent of our respondents also brought with them their perspective as a show chair, and could report notable levels of spending by clubs to host an event.

Our study confirmed that our constituents travel consistently across the country and spend money doing it; about a quarter of our respondents reported that they travel more than twenty times a year for dog shows. On average, participants travel to dog events twelve times a year, over and above any other travel during the rest of the year.

This is no surprise for the “weekend warriors” among us. Most people travel more than one hundred miles to get to an AKC event, and a majority spend two to three nights or more before returning home.

Half the respondents said they bring another person along with them when they travel to events. As a group, we spend significant dollars on airfare, lodging, gas, car rental, food and beverage, entertainment, apparel, gifts, veterinary services, laundry, parking and more. Notably, this is over and above entry fees.

Travel to conformation events was not surprisingly the most prevalent among respondents. We learned that conformation events garner the highest amount of spending across most categories as compared to other events.

Airfare and lodging cost conformation exhibitors more than five hundred dollars and two hundred dollars per trip, respectively.

Fuel was an important expense for all, with average gas expenditures mounting to about \$140 per trip in many cases. Not to be ignored are the expenditures our clubs make to host events, excluding the fees paid to superintendents and judges.

Our study revealed that clubs spend an average of \$9,000 to hold an AKC event of any kind.

These dollars are spent on airfare, hotels, catering, equipment rental, sanitation, flowers, photography and more.

Over one third of clubs reported that they hire at least one person from the local community to work their show in some capacity not otherwise covered by club members or a show superintendent.

Our research considered spending by individual exhibitors and clubs, both generally and regionally, at all kinds of AKC events. The conclusions make an excellent case for our sports.

Events in regions with lower concentrations of shows, such as the Southwest, can generate up to two hundred seventy million dollars annually for the regional economy. In the Midwest, where greater concentrations of AKC events are held, our sports can generate well over three hundred million dollars a year.

Considering all events across the country, AKC events may drive over one and a half billion dollars in spending nationwide in the categories measured.

Oftentimes, our own image of ourselves as hobbyists conjures up comparisons to the “quaint economy.” But this new research presents the dog fancy as a composite of a variety of AKC sports for all walks of life, as well as a powerful resource for communities across America.

Our convention centers, expo halls, public parks, sporting facilities and elected officials have every reason to welcome our events. Now, more than ever, we know that the benefits of showing dogs extend farther than ourselves; *showing dogs is good for America.*

Thank you all very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung gave the President's Report as follows:

1970 was a memorable year, both good and bad. The voting age was lowered to 18 from 21. The Beatles officially broke up. The Concorde made its first supersonic flight. Jimi Hendrix died and dog food cost \$1 for 12 cans. But there was one long-lasting highlight. That year, the American Kennel Club drafted a rookie from the Washington Heights Farm Team as a part-time file clerk. After two years in training, he became a posting clerk, also part-time, and finally, in his third season, he made the first line as an assistant supervisor, being promoted to supervisor seven years later in 1980. The following year, he was traded to the New Club Operations Department and became a star player in 1985 as Director of Club Relations where he fought the good “daily” fights until his recent position as Director of Compliance. Our esteemed Executive Secretary, Jim Crowley, put together a Proclamation in this gentleman's honor.

Mr. Crowley: It gives me great pleasure to be able to give this proclamation.

When in the course of AKC events a momentous milestone is reached that requires recognition, it is incumbent upon the AKC board and management to do it

WHEREAS,

**Michael A. Liosis**, joined the staff of AKC two score and five years ago on June 15, 1970, as a part-time file clerk while pursuing a degree at St. John's University; and,

WHEREAS, little did this eager young college student know when first entering the hallowed halls of 51 Madison Avenue, that his tenure at AKC would span decades and go from paying off student loans to collecting Social Security; and,

WHEREAS, he soon became as dedicated to AKC as he was to his New York Rangers Hockey and St. John's Red Storm basketball, which he believes has been jinxed since the school dropped its decades of old moniker "Red Men" in the name of political correctness; and,

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, Mike's talent was recognized and he joined AKC as a full-time employee as Assistant Manager in Event Plans, later rising to Manager and Director of Club Relations where he quickly learned that you often cannot please any of the people any of the time, with half of each club's membership applauding every conflict-resolving decision, while the other half condemned it; and,

WHEREAS, his skill at dealing with sport-related blood feuds and vendettas, as well as allegations of fraud, abuse, criminality, slander and worse, was so perfected with constant practice that as a reward for his service, he was given oversight of the Compliance Department in 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the AKC Board and Staff as well as the hundreds of clubs which have been accredited or not, or had disputes resolved to their satisfaction or not, join in expressing their appreciation to Mike for devoting 69% of his life so far to AKC and the Sport,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the AKC's Board and Management extend their sincere gratitude for Mike's 45 years of devotion to AKC and the Sport and look forward to his continued dedication and contributions over the next 45 years.

Signed, Ronald H. Menaker, on behalf of the Board and Dennis B. Sprung on behalf of AKC management.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: On another matter, during this celebration of his anniversary, Mike is universally recognized as the number one New York Ranger fan. If Jim and Paula will assist me, I would like Mike Liosis, the pride of AKC and the New York Rangers, to come forward. As you can imagine, Mike is currently experiencing deep depression as a result of his heroes' dismal seventh game performance in the semifinals. To help raise his spirits, since the Rangers failed

to bring the Stanley Cup to New York, we have taken the unprecedented step of providing Mike with his very own Stanley Cup.

(Mr. Liosis presented with a replica of the Stanley Cup - Standing Ovation)

Thank you for 45 years of dedication.

The Chair called on Joseph Baffuto for the Financial Report. A summary follows:

In year over year comparison, through May 31, operating revenues are up by \$738,000 and operating expenses are down by \$118,000. Therefore, our operating income has increased by \$856,000 or 32% versus May 31 of the prior year.

Our investment portfolio has increased by \$3.0 million or 2.8% this year-to-date.

Our total unrestricted net assets have increased to \$116.8 million from \$107.3 million at this same point last year.

There was a discussion on the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, Sections 1-16 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which was scheduled for a vote at this meeting.

This amendment, with the deletion of Section 2, would bring the Rules into compliance with current operating procedures. Changes to Section 3, require clubs to hold events in their territory in order to retain exclusivity and only provides exclusivity for a period of time surrounding the show date. Additionally, an appeals process is outlined for clubs that believe permission to hold a show within another club's territory has been unreasonably withheld. The deletion of Sections 5 through 7 would remove outdated and repetitive language. Sections 8-16 will be renumbered. Changes to new Section 14 allows clubs to have digital, rather than paper, copies of documents at events.

It was published in two issues of the Gazette and is on the worksheet previously emailed to the Delegates. The proposed amendment was brought forth by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. The AKC Board put the proposal forward without recommendation.

A two-thirds affirmative vote is required for adoption.

Without objection, the question was divided, keeping all sections together, except for Section 3, which deals with the territoriality portion.

There were two-thirds in the affirmative, and the amendment as amended was adopted.

There was then discussion on Chapter 2, Section 3.

The Chair recognized Robert Eisele, Delegate for Suffolk County Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

My club is the club that raised the territory issue. We were requesting something to be done about clubs that are protecting a territory for which they were not using at all. So that's the scope that we were looking at. This motion has gone way past that scope and my club's original proposal.

I just want to warn people that if you're making a decision on this motion based upon all the clubs that you have heard that have been denied the territory by another club than you've really only heard half the story. You're just getting somebody standing up saying this club didn't get the territory from this club and how bad that other club is. There's two sides to every story and just don't go by that on its own.

We would also like to raise the point that you've heard that this is good for exhibitors. I question whether or not the people should be saying this motion is good for professional handlers. I believe the section needs to be changed, but I don't think this is the correct change.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Julian Prager, Delegate for Central Florida Kennel Club who spoke as follows:

My club opposes this for a number of reasons. One of the things that the Bylaws Committee just looked at is the difference between rules and regulations and one of the things we discovered is that the events governed by regulations frequently consider the expertise and the opinions of non-member clubs in making their decisions regarding the regulations in those sports. It occurs to me that we have 200 some odd Delegates here today out of around 600 Delegates, and nobody, as far as I know, has talked to any of the other types of clubs that are holding these events to determine their opinion about this. Our future depends on non-member clubs as well as member clubs.

In addition, I think that this has the process backwards. The clubs have territories. I have no problem and I think we all support everybody sharing whatever they have with other clubs to make things better for other clubs, but the question is if you have a territory, why not have a process that says your territory is your territory and if someone wants to go into your territory and you withhold it, then there's an automatic appeal to the board and you have to justify your reason to the board rather than the opposite way, saying oh, they can come in during this period

of time and if you want to keep them out, you have to appeal to the board. I'm really concerned about the effect of this on the future of the Sport. We know that there are requirements that clubs that hold events outside of their territories have to meet in order to continue holding events and I apologize to the Delegate from the Springfield Kennel Club. I know people in his area have great public relations, they have great legislative contact, they have great publicity, but that's not true for the some of the clubs that are coming to his location and I'm concerned about the effect -- the potential negative effect this may have on reaching out to the public to support our sport on behalf of those clubs that are not holding shows in their own territory and that are not keeping up with the mandates of the AKC with regard to what they have to do in order to be able to hold shows. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Cathy De La Garza, Delegate for Galveston Kennel Club who spoke as follows:

I speak in favor of the motion. This year, we are not going to have eight shows in our local area because there are no sites and they need to go to an air conditioned place that is not on dirt. These same clubs have also been told that they cannot cluster on the dirt floor, so that means there's locked into two-day shows. Our shows are continuing to slip. This country was based on free enterprise. I think anybody should be able go to any area as long as it's within 125 miles and hold a show that serves the purposes of AKC and the Sport of dogs.

(Applause)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Don Adams, Delegate for Cudahy Kennel Club who spoke as follows:

We are an urban club. We can solve this problem by stating if a club wants to go into a territory and it was denied, they have an appeal process. It looks to me like we put the shoe on the wrong foot. Our club conducts 28 events a year. We take service to our community very seriously. It would be very easy for a rural club 100 miles away to decide my urban market is a better place to hold a dog show than in the local fairgrounds. I don't have a problem with that, we've never denied anyone, but it would be nice if we had the opportunity to address that issue when it came. If our actions were deemed to be unreasonable, then then there should be adjudicator. I think that would solve the problem and it would foster cooperation for the competition. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Barbara Furbush, Delegate for Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

First, I would like to mention this little pamphlet *The Economic Benefit of a Dog Show*. I was probably one of the first clubs that called AKC and asked for 25 to be sent to me years ago. We sent them to all our of our county representatives, we sent them to everybody that we could think of that were voting people and we really had a good response. We have 12 motels in our area. All of them accept dogs, except two. In 2010, I was honored to receive from our local Chamber of Commerce an Outstanding Tourism Volunteer Award for bringing three kennel clubs together to have dog shows at our civic center. Three weeks ago, I was given an Outstanding Award by the Tourism Department because the Poodle Club of America has been there for 12 years. This is our area and it's a very special place to me. My question is if we allow other clubs to come into our area, A. will we find out at a Delegate meeting that somebody has applied for our area or will AKC let us know that somebody has applied, so that we can work with them? My concern is that we want to work with people. We don't want to just give free reign. So I feel that AKC needs in place something to protect us as a member of the club.

Mr. Sprung: We can certainly advise you.

Ms. Furbush: Yes, because I think that that is most important, that you would send us a letter and say such and such a club wants to come into your territory, so that we can work together. Without the Salisbury Kennel Club, the Poodle Club of America would never run as smoothly. We help them with obedience because they can't bring people down to work, so we work together and this creates a wonderful relationship and we want it to be positive. Also, for example, the Poodle Club of America uses all the rooms in Salisbury in April. In November, our five-day cluster does not fulfill all the room reservations, so therefore they won't let us use two of the hotels because they don't want to mix traveling people with the dog show people for fear of them not coming back after we leave. So we have a keep a good relationship with our county. As you can see, I have done that for the last 30 years as Show Chairman and I sure don't want to lose that by AKC not protecting us.

The Chair recognized Marcy Zingler, Delegate for the Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, who spoke as follows:

Is it possible to send this back to Committee and have at least the language restructured? Because apparently, A. it's not presenting the intent as it was originally put forth and B. there seems to be a lot of confusion about what several things mean.

There was a motion made and seconded and the amendment was referred back to the Committee.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, as follows:

This amendment is to Chapter 16, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, A new Section 1 would allow for the awarding of CM points in the regular puppy classes. All other sections will be renumbered accordingly. Dogs that earn a CM title will be awarded one point toward its championship title under this proposed amendment. The amendment will be published in two issues of the online AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2015 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Patricia Laurans, Delegate for German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, and Chair of the Parent Club Committee, who spoke as follows:

Is this the appropriate time for me to ask for a division of this motion so we separate the two parts, or does that come up later?

Mr. Sprung: That would be in September when it's going to be voted on.

Ms. Laurans: But to say that this is the intent, and that some of us would like at this point in time to discuss what went on in our Parent Club committee meeting.

Mr. Sprung: Of course we could discuss it now. We just can't divide the question today.

Ms. Laurans: All right. This is what came up at the Parent Club Committee meeting. There was support for the first section, the CM. There was very definite opposition to the awarding of a championship point. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Ellen Hardin, Delegate for Golden Retriever Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I applaud the intent. I have judged a few four-to-six-month puppy classes. The exhibitors are having a wonderful time and the puppies are having a wonderful time. But the awarding of a championship point is a problem for the Golden Retrievers who have a height standard. It would be the rare puppy in four to six months of age that would be at the height requirement. In Golden Retrievers, it's also a disqualification if the dog is not tall enough. We would have the opportunity to award a championship point to dog that really should be disqualified under judging.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Cindy Miller, Delegate for the Harrisburg Kennel Club and member of the Dog Show Rules Committee, who spoke as follows:

There are three issues on this proposed amendment that we're going to be making changes to if it goes forward. First off, the point schedule does not agree with what is currently published in Chapter 3, Section 22, which defines the certificate of merit. We understand that that's a Board policy and it can change, but we believe that for one point, you need to have two dogs. Secondly, the four-to-six-month puppy class should not be getting points and thirdly, we also agree that no points should be going to the championship title. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read a list of vacancies for the Delegate Committees that are to be filled in September, as follows:

These are the vacancies on Delegate Committees that are to be voted at the September Delegate meeting:

All-Breed Clubs Committee: Four, three-year terms, one two-year term and one one-year term.

Bylaws Committee: Three, three-year terms.

Canine Health Committee: Three three-year terms and one one-year term.

Companion Events Committee: Four, three-year terms.

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee: Four, three-year terms and one one-year term.

Dog Show Rules Committee: Four three-year terms.

Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee: Three three-year terms and one two-year term.

Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Committee: Three three-year terms.

Parent Clubs Committee: Four three-year terms and one two-year term.

*Perspectives* Editorial Staff: Six, two-year terms and one, one-year term.

The Chair informed the Delegates they would be emailed self-nomination forms by the end of this June and that the nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by Friday, July 17th. Questions on the procedures to be followed should be directed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self-nominate for one committee, expect that a member of *Perspectives* Editorial Staff may also serve on another Standing Committee. In August, the Delegates will be emailed the nominees for each committee and their qualification statements. At the September meeting, following the election of committees, meeting space will be provided for each committee to elect their chairs and secretaries.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the September 2015 Delegates meeting will be held at the same location, the Doubletree Hilton Airport Hotel, on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, and that we would be emailing and placing hotel information on the Delegate Portal after our block of rooms becomes available.

The December Delegates meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Centre Hotel on Friday, December 11th, 2015. As soon as that block becomes available, information would be emailed.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Sue Goldberg, Delegate for the Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, spoke in support a new special attraction, the Pee Wee class. She commented on the first one held by the Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers and indicated that it would be offered by the Somerset Hills Kennel Club Show.

Paul Bodeving, Delegate for Rogue Valley Kennel Club spoke about the Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers Pee Wee class event.

Whitney Coombs, Delegate for the Catoctin Kennel Club, spoke on behalf of the Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America, which had been denied opportunity to apply to be a member club despite meeting all published requirements. He indicated that a number of other Parent Clubs

were in the same situation. Mr. Sprung indicated that he would check and get back to him this week.

Julian Prager, Delegate for Central Florida Kennel Club, gave an update and asked for assistance. He works for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). He reported on pending legislation, which would give APHIS the authority to look at the records of a retail pet store to determine who is supplying them with animals.

He gave his work email: [julian.d.prager@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:julian.d.prager@aphis.usda.gov)

He reviewed two issues that are critical to some decision making. One is the interstate transportation of pets from one shelter to another.

The other was that APHIS was taking a look at dogs that brokers are handling and was trying to get to brokers to make sure they are all registered.

Marjorie Tuff, Delegate for the American Shetland Sheepdog Association asked the AKC Board to delay the implementation on a new judging approval process until it received more input.

Joyce Engle, Delegate for the Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club, requested that AKC reconsider charging clubs for educational material they distribute or at least to subsidize the cost.

Cindy Miller, Delegate for the Harrisburg Kennel Club and Chair of the Dog Show Rules Committee, asked for input on the rule change regarding show territory, which was referred back to her Committee.

Felice Jarrold, Delegate for the Old Pueblo Dog Training Club, spoke about AKC becoming involved in nose work.

Linda Flynn, Delegate for South Shore Kennel Club spoke about the benefits of having an email blast to promote a club's event.

Daniel Smyth, Delegate for the Burlington County Kennel Club, encouraged the Delegates to write articles for the *Perspectives* newsletter.

There being no further business to come before the Delegate body, the meeting was adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at 11:21 a.m.)

***The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.***