

ASCA General Membership Meeting
September 24, 2003
2003 ASCA National Specialty
West Bend, Wisconsin

The General Membership Meeting was called to order by Jerry Aufox at 8:10 p.m.

The Board Members were introduced by President Aufox. President Jerry Aufox, Treasurer Michelle Berryessa, Director Chris Davenport, Secretary Ann DeChant, Second Vice President Linda Gray, Director Peter Hellmeister, Director Shelly Hollen, First Vice President Kathy Warren, Director Maarten Walter, and Director-Elect Roger Steven.

There was no Quorum as there were 99 Members in attendance.

Jerry Aufox announced that the Minutes from the last meeting were published in the *Aussie Times*, and he dispensed with reading of the minutes.

Treasurer's report: Michelle Berryessa reported that the January 1 balance was \$122,664, and the August 31 ending balance was \$164,954. The total income for that period was \$497,143, with expenses of \$454,853. The Prudential account has \$42,080, the Bank 1 Security has \$41,220, and the Savings account has a balance of \$138,219. Report was received by President Aufox.

Committee Reports

Agility Committee –

Allison Bryant, Interim Chairperson, thanked Peter Hellmeister for being the Liaison. She thanked the former Chair, Marge Vincent, who resigned in July. This was the first year of the new Finals Qualifying System where one Qualifying Score equals one point to qualify for Finals. A total of 32 dogs competed for the Finals in the three divisions of Standard, Juniors, and Veterans. There were no Juniors this year. She congratulated Christine Culver and Piper for winning the Standard Finals and Pamela Bryant-Meeks and Aggie for winning the Veterans Finals. This past year was the first year for the new Merit Program, which includes all levels and Classes instead of just the Elite dogs competing. The points for that were handled the same way with one Q equals one point. The Committee is updating rule books to be more in sync with NADAC so that dual-sanctioned trials work. They are going through the Rule Book Chapter by Chapter. This year several Members are resigning from the Committee, so there are several vacancies to fill. All Regions need at least one Member from each region except California.

Jerry Aufox stated that anyone who wants to serve on any Committee can send a resume to Jo Kimes and request to be added to a Committee.

Conformation Committee –

Gemi Sasson-Brickson, Chair, reported that the Committee had a busy year. They put the Code of Ethics in Judge's packets that get mailed to Judges and into the Conformation

rules. They voted to remove the Rules for the Three-Judge system for the Nationals which hasn't been done for years. They developed and sent out the Altered survey, and Gemi has 200 responses so far. They are still welcome. Judges can order badges from Cassio with ASCA logo and name and judging level. They went through rules and edited them for grammar and punctuation changes. They came up with a letter to be used to get deceased or retired Judges off the list. Hopefully others can use it. Gemi thanked everyone for voting to make Altered a regular ASCA Program, and she said it was great to see the competition out there today. The survey is asking for specifics and whether it should be part of HOF. She encouraged people to inform Committees of problems they see. The Committee is talking about writing an article breaking the rules down. She thanked outgoing committee members Debbie ----, Teena Meadors, Joni Johnson, and Gemi (who is also leaving). She welcomed Beth Ellen Peterson as Chair, and stated that Chris Davenport will remain as Liaison. She welcomed new members Glenda Stephenson and Rick Gann.

DNA & Genetics Committee -

Chris Reedy, Chair, announced that there are six kits that are not quite completed correctly, and they will have to be corrected. She reported that 101 dogs were done at the DNA Blood draw this year, and three additional kits were sold. She thanked her draw team of Peggy Timm, Mary Howison, Beth Benoumue and Diane DeVoto. Kit packers were Peter and Mary Hellmeister. There were quite a few dogs that came through with Not for Breeding Papers that were being done. All copies of the Gene Bank forms were passed out today, but the Gene Bank forms are on the web site, so you can print them off. Also, be aware that the address for ImmGen has changed to a new address and kits that may have been sitting around for a while will not have the correct address. Please contact Lola at the ASCA Office for the correct address. The Popular Dams rule goes into effect beginning January 1, 2004. Dams need to be DNAed after their second litter and before their third litter. The lab will no longer be accepting hair pulls, but blood draws, cheek swabs, and the new blood cards can be used to submitting DNA materials to ImmGen. Chris made plug in support of Epilepsy research and mentioned an ad which has been prepared for the *Aussie Times*. She mentioned the two IE studies that are ongoing for Aussies.

HOF Committee –

Kathy Warren reported that the next *Aussie Times* will have a report with important questions for all. The Committee is proposing changes to the HOF kennel to requiring (instead of 5 of each Conformation and Stock) that there be a combination of ten from Conformation and Stock titles that with at least 3 from Conformation and at least 3 of Stock Titles with the remaining from each area. The majority of people voting on HOF in the last election voted to have a least some mandatory requirements for Sires and Dams. The Committee is considering three required from Stock or Conformation for Sires and two for Dams, or we could require either Stock or Conformation so that you could get your HOF Sire or Dam with just Conformation or Stock rather than a combination of both. The Committee needs your input on that. The CD requirement is removed from the TD. Please read your next *Aussie Times* and let us know how you feel about these things.

Questions from Melinda Gann: She asked about stock title levels and Kathy Warren said that the level of titles required haven't changed so that Advanced Duck and Open Sheep and Cattle are the Titles that count.

MVA Committee –

Anne Shope, Chair, reported that they will come up with an MVA checklist for Host Clubs putting on MVA at the Nationals and at local shows. They will also come up with guidelines for new MVA participants to help them understand the process and the point system for the Conformation Evaluation. The MVA Rules are available on the ASCA web site, and they are also available from the ASCA Office. The Rule Book also includes HOF, Performance Championship and Versatility Champion requirements. Be sure you get updates to these rules every six months as they do change from time to time. The new chair is Renee Reschenthaler and the Liaison is Shelly Hollen. The Committee wants to do an article for the *Aussie Times* on MVA, and they want the contestants in this year's MVA competition to share their experiences for the article. Personal tidbits and your short personal stories are welcome. They are working on a performance ribbon which will be in addition to MVA to recognize those who excel in performance even if they have prick ears or a conformation fault by eliminating the Conformation Evaluation score. They welcome Member's opinions about such a ribbon. The Committee is looking at the Conformation Evaluation form to make the evaluation go quicker. There are three sections with a total of 90 points. Judges think it would be quicker if they did not have to break it down in this manner. The suggestions for the future, for the Conformation Evaluation, is to start it earlier and hold it out of the weather. Questions: Will LEP dogs be able to do the performance award? No, as this will be within the MVA program so it will be for the highest scoring performance dog from the MVA participants. LEP cannot compete in for MVA at this time. The Performance ribbon would be a Ribbon for the highest score without the conformation evaluation. Give the Committee your feedback and opinions regarding these ideas.

Junior Committee –

Melissa Borde, Member of Committee, reported that each person on the committee was given a separate section of the Junior Rules for revision. They have been working recently on the MVJ program. There are plans to have a Junior Showmanship evaluation as a new part of the program rather than just showing in Juniors. The New Chair is Claire Gustafson, replacing Reggie Silveira. The Juniors program will have a web site, but it doesn't have a URL yet. They are working on the All-Around Rules. MVJ is being worked on as there are no guidelines or rules yet. There were questions about next Nationals and new MVJ Rules. The 2004 Nationals will have the option of using the new rules, if they get them done and passed.

Stock Dog Committee –

Barb Moe, Chair, from Montana Chair thanked Contestants and their families and said, "They are the program." She thanked people who committed time and energy to improve the program, enjoying it while they are doing it! They work for the Membership, the program is open to the members. In the last year, there were 189 Stock Dog Trials held,

with 901 titles earned by Aussies. Titles earned by other breeds were 810. The total competing was 1,169. There were 15 ranch trial sanctioned with 50 titles earned by Aussies and 42 earned by other breeds. The Stock Dog Finals are made possible in part by support from Affiliate Clubs and individuals. This year's Finals were supported in part by SEMASA, CVASC, Coast ASC, ASCNE, TriCounty ASWA also, George and Joanne Frey, individually. A hand was given to those donors. She thanked those who helped with the Finals including Kathy Schwengel, host Club Course Director, and Timekeepers, scorekeepers, and Sue Kelly, and Gail Winnick, Becca Borg, Linda Mahoney, who helped with stock handling and setting. The Stock Dog Committee is very active and they work to clarify Rule Books to be sure they work together. They also consider input from Members. This year has been a good year for receiving Member input. A Judge's seminar was held with Rachel Vest as the host judge. They reviewed the Rules and how to judge the gray areas. Many discussion items were based on Member questions and input. A Stock Dog Committee meeting was held as well.

Kathy Warren is remaining Liaison, and Barb thanked Warren Robinson and Bob Myrick, outgoing Members. Mike Bryant, Mark Hodges, and Joe Adamsic are the new Committee Members. Barb Moe will remain as Chair. She thanked the Committee for their support and thanked Members, the Board, and the Australian Shepherd who brought us all together.

Tracking Committee –

Debbie St. Jacques is standing in for Anne Hershey. They had a great year trying to get Tracking on back on track. They had a great test this year at the Nationals. She thanked the judges, Wally O'Brien and Annette Cochran, and Tracking Chair, Kim Cochran with lots of track layers. This year there were six TDs and three Alternates entered and three TDX dogs entered with two Alternates -- the largest test ever. There were three TDs that passed, but no TDX. The dogs that passed their TDs were: Terra Blue Spur of the Moment UD RSN JSN with Craig and Nanette Bohren; OTCH CH Bohren's Sian ARPH 258 UDX GSN RSN JSN, Craig and Nanette Bohren; and WTCH Wind Dance Burnt Mountain Tight PATDS CD RTDsc DNA-CP, Jan Wesen and Sherie Douglas. The Tracking Committee has sent a lot of e-mails with 13 Members representing all ASCA Regions. The recommendation that a cloth scent article will be placed at the start of the TD track was approved. The Committee corrected typos, and changed Rules to return money to those who did not make it into a test so that the money is returned faster. The Board passed a new rule which allows Tracking dogs to wear hunting vest for tests that are held during hunting season. DNA kits will go to every dog that passes a Tracking test at the ASCA Nationals. The Committee has made progress working on credentialing requirements for applicants who wish to judge ASCA Tracking Tests. The Committee is developing informative materials for the ASCA web site for clubs and Committees to follow to put on Nationals and local Tracking test. Three tracking tests were held in the last year. ASC of Washington had three passes, ASC of Mid America had two passes, Upper Midwest ASCA had two passes. Upcoming tests were announced. Linda Gray is continuing as Liaison. Debbie announced that Tracking can stand alone for HOF. She thanked Anne Hershey for writing the report.

Jerry Aufox announced that the Board has approved a new standing Committee, the Education Committee. The Education Committee Members were announced by Shelly Hollen who is serving as the initial Liaison. Shelly reported that those who have been appointed to the Committee are: Susan Moorehead, Kelly Carter, Rick Gann, Glenda Stephenson, Kristin McNamara, Lisa Cameron, Sandy Cornwell, and Terry Martin. There is still room, so she encouraged anyone who is interested to please submit a resume. This Committee will handle education within all kind of levels in ASCA, Stockdog issues, health issues, show issues, judging issues.

Jerry Aufox announced that the Obedience Committee has no report.

ARPH –

Craig Bohren, President of ARPH, reported that this year is the 10th anniversary of ARPH. In, 1993 ARPH rescued 66 dogs, and ARPH has rescued over 500 so far this year, and last year rescued over 700 dogs. ARPH has over 500 reps and volunteers from all over the US and parts of Canada. ARPH's budget has grown to \$100,000 year budget (about \$200 per dog) and is doing well when other nonprofits are failing. The ARPH Online store is key. They are receiving a grant from a Foundation and an estate settlement. Diana Oliver stepped down as President. Two new people have come on: Patty Kunkel, Indiana, and an attorney from California, Greta Kaplan. Please visit the ARPH web site, <www.AussieRescue.org> and participate in the raffle here tomorrow. Thanks to many ARPH volunteers. Thanks to ASCA affiliate clubs and Members for donations and raffles to benefit ARPH. Craig said thanks to ASCA for its continuing support of ARPH as ASCA's official rescue arm, and for the *Aussie Times* column space. And thanks to Kathy Warren, our easy-to-work-with Liaison.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

Steve Shope thanked the host club RRVASC for a wonderful Nationals and asked the Board to look at Regions and the size thereof. He suggested that Europe needs to be considered as well. He asked the Board of Directors to look at how we appoint Members of Committees. He would like the areas to have a say in who represents them.

Jerry Aufox reported that the Board has established a Board Committee to begin looking at our Regions. ASCA has grown and the regions were developed way back when. A Board Committee has been established to look at Regions and realigning them to make more sense, and the Committee structure will be looked at, too. Reports from this and all Committees will be in the *Aussie Times*, our official voice. He promoted the ASCA-L as a place to communicate with the Board and Committees. The Board established a requirement for Chairs to be on ASCA-L. The Board is trying to improve Communications, and that is one of the quickest ways to communicate with both the Board Members and Committee Members.

Tenley Dexter from Connecticut said she would like to make comment about an issue raised with Stock Dog Committee about regions voting for Committee Members instead

of the Board appointing them. How would we do it? The Board should seek comments from Membership about it. She would like to reiterate this suggestion and would like to see progress in this area.

Jerry Aufox stated that questions about Committee appointments need to be addressed to the Board, not to the Committees. The Board has a Committee appointment process that was developed in the past to appoint two Members from each Region. He said that your thoughts and ideas are welcome. Jerry said that he has been on the Board for three years and can't remember this suggestion being made before. He said, "If you want the Board to do something, please contact the Board. We are your representatives, we want to serve the Membership, we seek your input. Write us, email us, and we will take it into consideration and get you a response." Barb Moe, Stock Dog Committee Chair, said the Stock Dog committee will discuss this as well.

Melanie Block from Illinois, asked about whether there was a Hardship Committee report as she had arrived a little late. Jerry Aufox explained that there are hardship rules in place and the Hardship Committee is made up of three people who view the pictures that are sent in with the applications. Hardship Rules are established. There is a picture requirement and a DNA requirement and there are Hardship Rules to be followed. If you have a dog that does not meet the Hardship Rules, your avenue of appeal is through the Board for consideration. The Hardship Rules have recently been changed eliminating the automatic acceptance of pedigrees from certain registries. Melanie Block said that was part of her question that the Membership has voted to keep Hardship registration open, and Hardship was a sort of the open registry, and she thought that was good. Shelly Hollen said that there are ways to appeal to the Board for NSDR and UKC dogs. Jerry Aufox said, "The goal of the Board was to improve the integrity of the registry as best we can. We had seen the use of these registries as a way around things. We are doing the best we can to ensure that the pedigrees we are accepting through Hardship are indeed Australian Shepherds. We have not closed Hardship. You can always appeal exceptions to the Board, and existing Rules are in effect until January 1, 2004." Jerry relayed some of the questions that he fields related to Hardship. He had a person who asked him about registering a litter that is on the ground through Hardship. The sire is an ASCA dog, but the dam's pedigree is unknown. When he told her that Hardship rules would not allow her to register this litter, she said she would go the NSDR and register her bitch as they would allow her to register her with an unknown pedigree. He said, "That is the problem with NSDR, it is open." Kathy Stevens said that we don't know if NSDR will register this dog. Jerry Aufox responded that it was hearsay on this person's part, but ASCA has had some experience with this. Lynn Fremuth said, "The NSDR web site has requirements, and if you look you will see that you have to pay your money, send photos, and say who the Sire and Dam are. That's it, that's all it takes to register anything as an Australian Shepherd, if you want those dogs in our registry." Themie Shepherd then said that all of his dogs, including his foundation Las Rocosa bitch, went back to NSDR dogs.

There was a Motion to adjourn but Linda Bell from Texas requested that the Board provide more recommendations to honor Finals Dogs. There was discussion about this issue and that pictures need to be taken. Jerry suggested that Members give the Board

ideas of what you want. Barb Moe said that she has this on the list for Stock Dog Committee. The Board seeks the ideas, and the Stock Dog Committee would be happy to consider ideas that are sent to them. Let us know exactly what you want. Roger Stevens said at one Nationals they had a meeting with the judges and gave special recognition. Let people know ahead of time that group pictures will be taken. Barb Moe said that the Committee will address some standardization.

Roger Stevens asked if Members know that the Stock Dog program events expanded into Sweden, Germany, Holland. An article has been prepared and submitted to the *Aussie Times*.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann B. DeChant
Secretary