



AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

6091 E State Hwy 21, Bryan, TX 77801

www.asca.org

P: (979) 778-1082

Office Contact: manager@asca.org

F: (979) 778-1898

Board Contact: asca.execsec@gmail.com

October 2020 Executive Secretary's Report

This report details the day-to-day activities of the ASCA Board of Directors (the Board). It includes results of motions voted on via email, meeting minutes, and any other non-confidential issues brought before the Board.

Announcements

ASCA Board of Directors for 2020-2021:

President Lizette Busquets

1st Vice President Rick Gann

2nd Vice President Gina Larson

Secretary Jan Wesen

Treasurer Warren Evans

Director Judy Boone Director Denise Creelman

Director Carol Gerken Director Jean Roberts

Effective immediately, all entry fees for ASCA Finals are set as follows: Agility \$80, Conformation \$75, Junior \$0, Obedience \$75, Rally \$75, Stockdog - Ducks \$100, Sheep \$125, Cattle \$150.

Effective June 1, 2021, Additional Event Membership Dues are set as follows: \$1.25 per entry for stockdog events, \$0.50 per entry for all other program events.

Beginning with the 2021 ASCA Stockdog Finals, the number of entries is decreased from 30 to 25 in all classes of stock.

Beginning with the 2022 ASCA Stockdog Finals, the number of judges used is decreased from 6 to 3.

The Board gave in depth consideration to all options proposed regarding how we may include the 2020 Finalists in the 2021 Finals. Ultimately, they decided not to make any modifications to the 2021 Finals. Finalists from 2020 will be recognized in other ways.

There is a new release included with all ASCA entry forms and is required to be used after January 1, 2021. The new release is identified by the October 8, 2020 revision date on the bottom right corner of the release:

Date: _____

SIGNATURE OF OWNER/HANDLER OR PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (IF JR IS UNDER 18)
PERSON SIGNING THIS FORM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ERRORS AND RULE VIOLATIONS

AS USED HERE, "ASCA" MEANS THE OWNER AND THE OPERATOR OF THE EVENT PREMISES, THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA, ITS AFFILIATE CLUBS, AND EACH OF THEIR MEMBERS, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, SHOW CHAIRMEN, SHOW COMMITTEES AND AGENTS.

October 8, 2020

The Board approved a recommendation from the Agility Committee to temporarily allow judges to send their course maps to trial secretaries.

The minutes of the 2020 Affiliate Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting, held virtually this year, can be found starting on page 6.

*ASCA's **Virtual Titling Program** for ASCA Obedience and Rally is now live: <https://www.asca.org/virtual-titling-program/>. This program is designed to allow exhibitors and their dogs to compete in ASCA performance events during times when we need to practice social distancing, and when trials are few and far between. It also offers a new opportunity for exhibitors living in areas where there may not be traditional ASCA events. The virtual trial is a great way to start young dogs and give them ring experience before entering traditional in-person trials.*

Motions Considered via Email

Foundation Recommendations

FD.20.08 Change to Foundation Policy Book - Section 8 Ernest Hartnagle Award

Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

Motion by Creelman to have the Ernest Hartnagle Memorial Icon Award follow the same notification and distribution schedule as the Cee Hambo Educational Scholarship. Second by Roberts.

Current Wording:

8.4 Distribution

The Board shall act on the Committee's recommendations. The winner(s) shall be announced at the National Specialty.

...

Proposed Wording:

8.4 Distribution

The Board shall act on the Committee's recommendations. The ASCA Foundation Board shall collect applications all year-round and forward them to the selection committee, which shall make the official decision one month before the National Specialty. The winner (s) shall be announced at the National Specialty.

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Comments/Rationale: This will keep the two similar awards consistent.

Affected: Business Office would send out notification and distribution.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Committee Recommendations

AG.20.06 Change to Agility Rules - Appendix C Section 5.8

Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Agility Committee to protect exhibitors during COVID-19.

Committee Recommendation: The Agility Committee is recommending that judges can send the trial secretary the course maps during the COVID-19 period. Here are the regulations and restrictions:

1. If the trial secretary requests the judge to send the course maps, the judge can do so with the following:
 - a. the courses will only be sent the evening before the trial to the trial secretary
 - b. the trial secretary can then send them out the evening before also
 - c. the judge cannot send all maps for all days at the same time

Current Wording: Appendix C: ASCA Agility Judging Program

5.8 Withhold Courses from Host Club Prior to Trial

Judges shall not send their courses to the host club prior to the trial. The only exception is sending the first course (without numbers) so the club may set the equipment prior to the judge's arrival.

Proposed Wording: Appendix C: ASCA Agility Judging Program

5.8 Withhold Courses from Host Club Prior to Trial

Judges shall not send their courses to the host club prior to the trial. The only exception is sending the first course (without numbers) so the club may set the equipment prior to the judge's arrival.

Temporary allowance during COVID-19, effective until further notice:

1. If the trial secretary requests the judge to send the course maps, the judge can do so with the following:
 - a. the courses will only be sent the evening before the trial to the trial secretary
 - b. the trial secretary can then send them out the evening before also
 - c. the judge cannot send all maps for all days at the same time

Comments/Rationale: To keep from people congregating around the posted copies, thus following the social distancing guidelines.

Affected: The Trial Secretary, judge, and exhibitors.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval, through the period of COVID-19 regulations of social distancing.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 6. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: 4.

Minutes of the Board's Virtual Meetings

Discussion of the Board's open session topics was recorded and may be listened to on ASCA's:

Website: <https://www.asca.org/home/news/bod-meetings-audio>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC490D1qEJtV7oiDp6KOHEvA>

Thursday, October 8

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm CDT and it was adjourned at 7:45 pm CDT.

In attendance were: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Rachel Vest, Treasurer Warren Evans, Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Gina Larson, Director Jean Roberts, Counsel David Schleicher (until 7:05 pm), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Topics Discussed/Acted On:

1. **Contracts for 2021 Nationals Entry Clerks** - Executive Session from 6:05 pm - 7:00 pm. The Board discussed the proposed contracts between ASCA and Terri Morgan to be 2021 Nationals Entry Clerk and Liz Neuman to be 2021 Nationals Agility Entry Clerk. A virtual meeting will be scheduled this month to negotiate the details.

2. **Contract for Administration of Virtual Titling Program** - Executive Session from 7:00 pm - 7:05 pm. ASCA's Counsel provided an independent contractor services agreement between ASCA and Heidi Mobley to develop a system to record and track activity related to virtual programs.

a. **BD.20.120 Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Heidi Mobley** - Motion by Evans to approve the contract, as presented, between ASCA and Heidi Mobley to develop a system to record and track activity related to virtual programs. Second by Larson.

i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

3. **Last Month's Email Business** - Due to the requirements of Washington State Law, all legal business of ASCA must be conducted via face-to-face meetings or telephone conference call meetings. To meet this requirement and continue to conduct business via email, each face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via email since the last face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

a. **BD.20.121 September 2020 Email Business** - Motion by Boone to ratify all business conducted over email in September 2020. Second by Wesen.

i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

4. **Revised ASCA Release Form** - ASCA's Counsel provided revisions to the release included with all ASCA entry forms, based on director and member feedback.

a. **BD.20.122 Revised Entry Form Release** - Motion by Creelman to approve the revised release form and update ASCA's entry forms with the new wording. Second by Wesen.

i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

5. **2020/2021 Finals** - The Board has given in depth consideration to all options proposed by directors, committees, and members regarding how we may include the 2020 Finalists in 2021. Directors shared their thoughts once again. Unfortunately, no option is without its drawbacks. Some programs have different needs than others, but the Board believes their decision should be consistent for all programs.

a. **BD.20.123 2021 Finals & Recognition of 2020 Finalists** - Motion by Larson to move forward with the 2021 Finals for all programs with no modifications. Recognition for the 2020 Finalists has already been determined - certificates, ribbons, etc. Second by Roberts.

i. Motion is **adopted** (6-3) - Approve: Boone, Creelman, Evans, Gann, Larson, Roberts. Disapprove: Busquets, Vest, Wesen. Abstain: None.

ii. *Dissent from Busquets*: I think we could find another solution, even though it may be difficult.

iii. *Dissent from Vest*: I am concerned this is not a fair solution that will result in filling the 2021 Finals. The Board waited five months to make this determination, which was five months people could have been competing, if there were open trials and shows, but they have not because they were waiting for a Board decision. So, I think it is patently unfair to now say, 'no, whatever work you did in 2020 is just lost.' I am vehemently opposed to this direction.

iv. *Dissent from Wesen*: I am concerned finals will not fill and that competitors were assuming we were going to combine the two years because that is a lot of the discussion they were hearing.

6. **Computer System/Technology Update** - Director Evans, as System Liaison, reported on the ongoing progress of the computer system upgrade and gave an update on overall technology plans.

- a. There continues to be issues with uploading agility trial results and Inventive is working on a solution. Thanks to Sherry Butler for her help in fixing this bug.
 - b. Director Vest cautioned that new appointees to the system upgrade committee should be able to work well with our system expert, Allison Bryant.
7. **New Server** - The server in the Business Office needs to be replaced and the Office Manager provided three quotes for the Board's consideration.
- a. **BD.20.124 New Server for Business Office** - Motion by Evans to authorize the Office Manager to move forward with a new server from McLane, estimated at \$6,126.64. Second by Larson.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.
8. **Virtual Titling Program** - To start ASCA's virtual titling program, the Board needs to authorize the Office Manager to set up payment for the program judges.
- a. **BD.20.125 Virtual Titling Program Judges** - Motion by Larson to authorize the ASCA Office Manager to make appropriate arrangements with judges that wish to participate in the Virtual Titling Program. This includes, but is not limited to, setting judges up as vendors, obtaining W-9 information, creating and processing payments to judges, and preparing and distributing forms 1099 as needed. Second by Vest. Comments/Rationale: The business office needs authorization to set up payment of judges for the new Virtual Titling program.
Affected: Business Office, Virtual titling program chair, judges. Ray Fryar and Heidi Mobley have reviewed the motion and are fine with the wording.
Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

Thursday, October 15

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm CDT and it was adjourned at 8:05 pm CDT.

In attendance were: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Rachel Vest, Treasurer Warren Evans, Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Gina Larson, Director Jean Roberts, Incoming Director Carol Gerken, Counsel David Schleicher (left at 6:12 pm), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Topics Discussed/Acted On:

1. **Legal Discussions** - Executive Session from 6:04 pm to 6:12 pm. President Busquets opened the floor for anyone to ask questions or bring up any legal issues to discuss with ASCA's Counsel David Schleicher.
2. **Committee Liaison Reports** - Executive Session from 6:12 pm - 7:12 pm. Liaisons shared updates on the functionality and productivity of their committees.
3. **Financial Update** - Executive Session from 7:12 pm to 7:23 pm. The financial reports for period ending September 30, 2020, were presented by Treasurer Evans. Mr. Evans updated the Board regarding ASCA's current fiscal condition and projections for the future. Members can find this report and analysis from Mr. Evans in the member's only section of ASCA's website.
4. **New Director Welcome** - President Busquets officially welcomed newly elected Director Carol Gerken to the ASCA Board. Also elected were incumbent Directors Liz Busquets and Denise Creelman. Ms. Gerken has been included in the Board's discussions since her election in July and has spent that time becoming familiar with the Board's practices so that she may hit the ground running at the end of the month.
 - a. President Busquets also took this time to publicly thank outgoing Director Rachel Vest for her six years of tireless service on the Board. We have all benefited from Ms. Vest's passion for ASCA.
5. **Norms** - A "norm" is a principle of right action binding upon the members of a group and serving to guide, control, or regulate proper and acceptable behavior. As we do during each face-to-face meeting, the Board reviewed their agreed upon norms and renewed commitment to upholding them.
6. **2021 Budget** - Treasurer Evans prepared the budget for the next fiscal year and presented it to the Board for feedback. Directors will take time this week to review and plan to vote during their October 22 meeting.
7. **Computer System Report** - This is a recurring topic for the Nationals meeting, but the update was mostly covered during the Board's October 8 meeting. From a strategic standpoint, we need to get the system upgrade committee settled before moving forward with the system upgrade and what is required for that to be successful.

8. **Finals Entry Fees** - In November 2014, the Board changed all ASCA Finals entry fees to \$60.00. This fee structure is reexamined during each Nationals meeting, but there have been no changes since 2014.

- a. Previous fees: agility \$80, conformation \$75, obedience \$75, rally \$75, stockdog - ducks \$100, sheep \$125, cattle \$150. There is no fee to enter Junior Finals.
- b. Most Directors were in favor of increasing the entry fees but wanted to see the related data/impact and revisit after next week's discussion of the Stockdog Committee's response to the Board's directive to reduce Stockdog Finals costs.

9. **Lifetime Achievement Award** - The Board considered a member request to formalize the nomination and selection procedures for ASCA's Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is currently handled by the History Committee and the Board hopes a transparent process with clearly defined criteria can be developed, in line with our other award/scholarship programs.

Thursday, October 22

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm CDT and it was adjourned at 7:49 pm CDT.

In attendance were: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Rachel Vest, Treasurer Warren Evans, Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Gina Larson, Director Jean Roberts, Incoming Director Carol Gerken, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Topics Discussed/Acted On:

1. **Recognition of 2020 Finalists in Aussie Times** - The Board wants to recognize finalists from 2020 with pictures in the March/April Aussie Times. The publication deadline for that issue is January 15.

- a. Some directors favored publishing pictures of the top 10 finalists from each program, and some others preferred using program-based percentages to determine how many finalists may be featured. Another option is to publish pictures of all the finalists, but the cost for that is uncertain.

2. **Entry Form Release** - In response to concerns the release form approved by the Board in July 2020 (v1) was overreaching, ASCA's Counsel proposed several revisions (v2). The release now makes clear that the duty to indemnify does not extend to claims that involve no allegations of impropriety by the signer of the form and those affiliated with the signer, plus his/her dog. As well, a lawsuit now only has to be in Texas if it names as a defendant ASCA, or a board member, staff member, or other agent of ASCA.

- a. **BD.20.127 Mandatory Use of 2021 Release** - Motion by Wesen to require the new version (v2) of the release included with ASCA entry forms be used after January 1, 2021. Second by Creelman.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.
- b. The new release (v2) is included on the entry forms currently available on the website, but January 1 serves as a cutoff date for use of the old release (v1). ASCA is still covered with the old release (v1).

3. **2021 Budget** - During the Board's October 15 meeting Treasurer Evans presented the budget for the 2021 fiscal year. Revisions were made following Director feedback and the budget is now ready to be adopted.

- a. **BD.20.128 2021 ASCA Budget** - Motion by Evans to accept the 2021 ASCA budget as presented. Second by Larson.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

4. **Stockdog Finals Costs & Finals Entry Fees** - In response to the Board's August 21 directive to research, explore, discuss, and present a plan to reduce Stockdog Finals costs and/or increase income, the Stockdog Committee presented many options and detailed analysis for the Board to consider.

Their report can be read here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v5Wxtz2qjOJHmpkj0-rNZSO093JYyf6G/view?usp=sharing>

- a. **BD.20.129 Increase Finals Entry Fees** - Motion by Larson, after reviewing the recommendations from the Stockdog Committee, to increase all entry fees for ASCA Finals as follows: Agility \$80, Conformation \$75, Obedience \$75, Rally \$75, Stockdog - Ducks \$100, Sheep \$125, Cattle \$150. Entry fee for Junior Finals remains at \$0. Effective immediately. Second by Roberts.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (8-0-1) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Evans, Larson, Roberts, Vest, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: Gann.

- b. **BD.20.130 Increase Additional Event Membership Dues** - Motion by Creelman, after reviewing the recommendations from the Stockdog Committee, to increase additional event membership dues as

follows: \$1.25 per entry for stockdog events, \$0.50 per entry for all other program events. Effective June 1, 2021. Second by Roberts.

- i. Motion is **adopted** (7-1-1) - Approve: Busquets, Creelman, Evans, Larson, Roberts, Vest, Wesen. Disapprove: Boone. Abstain: Gann.
- c. **BD.20.131 Decrease Number of Stockdog Finals Entries** - Motion by Vest, after reviewing the recommendations from the Stockdog Committee, to decrease the number of entries from 30 to 25 in all classes of stock, starting with the 2021 ASCA Finals. Effective immediately. Further, the Stockdog Committee must update the stockdog rules to reflect this change. Second by Larson.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (7-1-1) - Approve: Boone, Creelman, Evans, Larson, Roberts, Vest, Wesen. Disapprove: Gann. Abstain: Busquets.
 1. **Comment from Busquets:** I believe that this motion should have been made with an effective date of June 1, 2021, so that it would be in effect for the 2022 Finals and 2021.
- d. **BD.20.132 Decrease Number of Stockdog Finals Judges** - Motion by Boone, after reviewing the recommendations from the Stockdog Committee, to decrease the number of judges used for the Stockdog Finals from 6 to 3, beginning with the 2022 ASCA Finals. Second by Vest.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (5-4) - Approve: Boone, Creelman, Evans, Vest, Wesen. Disapprove: Busquets, Gann, Larson, Roberts. Abstain: None.
 1. **Dissent from Busquets:** I don't think that there was a hurry to change this. The motion made didn't change the draw, so we'll still be drawing 9, but 3 will be chosen instead of 6. I think the Board could have sent this back to the Stockdog Committee to reduce the number of judges to 3 and make all necessary changes to the rules that they thought were necessary to make the selection fair in the future, all at the same time.
 2. **Dissent from Larson:** I voted no on the motion to reduce the number of judges because with the increase in finals entry fees, increase in the per run fees and decrease to 25 finals contestants there should be plenty enough money to more than break even. Also, just because it was submitted as an option by the Stockdog Committee, it doesn't mean they or the membership supports this option or even recommends it. I feel that there should be more discussion as well as input from the SDC as well as the membership.
 3. **Dissent from Roberts:** I voted no on the motion to reduce the number of judges for the following reasons: The board increased entry fees and event membership dues, then reduced the number of runs and because of these actions reducing the number of judges is unnecessary. There were many options submitted by the SDC, they were not all adopted, nor should they be. So again, because of the three prior motions, reducing the number of judges was unnecessary. I will also argue that reducing the number of judges DOES change the scoring, the qualification (during the first go round), and the overall result, which means it is not an administrative change. It is a program change and belongs to the committee.

Wednesday, October 28

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 pm CDT and it was adjourned at 9:45 pm CDT.

In attendance were: Judy Boone, Liz Busquets, Denise Creelman, Warren Evans, Rick Gann, Carol Gerken, Gina Larson, Jean Roberts, Jan Wesen, Office Manager Ray Fryar, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Topics Discussed/Acted On:

1. **Election of ASCA Officers** - The Board votes yearly to elect ASCA's Officers. Mr. Fryar led the nomination/vote for ASCA's President, and then the President took over the remainder of the meeting. All officers were elected by acclamation.
 - a. President Lizette Busquets
 - b. 1st Vice President Rick Gann
 - c. 2nd Vice President Gina Larson
 - d. Secretary Jan Wesen
 - e. Treasurer Warren Evans
 - f. Election Secretary Ray Fryar
 - g. Membership Secretary Ray Fryar
 - h. Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

Wednesday, October 28

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 9:45 pm CDT and it was adjourned at 9:50 pm CDT.

In attendance were: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Treasurer Warren Evans, Secretary Jan Wesen, Judy Boone, Denise Creelman, Carol Gerken, Jean Roberts, Office Manager Ray Fryar, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Topics Discussed/Acted On:

1. **Election of ASCA Foundation Officers** - The Board must also vote to elect the Officers of the ASCA Foundation.
 - a. **BD.20.133 ASCA Foundation Officers** - Motion by Evans to set the Officers of the Australian Shepherd Club of America as the Officers of the ASCA Foundation. Second by Wesen.
 - i. Motion is **adopted** (9-0) - Approve: Unanimous.

Minutes of the Virtual Affiliate Meeting

The recording of this meeting may be listened to on ASCA's:

Website: <https://www.asca.org/home/news/bod-meetings-audio>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC490D1qEJtV7oiDp6KOHEvA>

Tuesday, October 27

This meeting is typically held at ASCA's National Specialty each year for representatives and members of ASCA Affiliate Clubs from around the world to meet face-to-face and discuss issues affecting them. President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm CDT and it was adjourned at 8:55 pm CDT.

In attendance were: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Rachel Vest, Treasurer Warren Evans, Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Gina Larson, Director Jean Roberts, Incoming Director Carol Gerken, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Also in attendance: Laura Abbott, Jerry Aufox, Harold Baska, Regina Bures, Sherry Butler, Susan Byrne, Anne Calmes, Leslie Creelman-Sosa, Diana Curl, Lacey Curry, Cindy Deak, Ann DeChant, Carrie Dempsey, Kim Edlin, Susan Ernstrom Roberts, Laura Gibson, Liz Gibson, Susie Gonaver, Linda Grant, Gull Gullickson, Norma Hakanson, Lynda Hardin, Rick Hardin, Susan Harris, Sandy Hawkins, Janna Heuer, Betty Jaco, Diane Keedy, Cindy King, Chuck Klein, Cathy Jo Korody, Jayne Lips, Debbie Martin, Ann McCabe, Valerie McKeever, Sunday Miles, Michelle Morgan, Jan Niblock, Margaret O'Neil, Donna Padgett, Charla Patterson, Elyse Phillips, Steven Phillips, Patricia Rogers, Judi Schachte, Carol Seastrunk, Susan Severns, Renee St. Jacques, Leah Swatko, Barb Taylor, Gail Thompson, Peggy Tunks, Madison Wheeler, Tanya Wheeler, Betty Williams, DiAnna Williams, Tara Worrton.

Topics Discussed/Acted On:

1. **Welcome & Introductions** - Those present introduced themselves. President Busquets welcomed everyone and went over expectations for the meeting.
2. **Summary of 2019 Meeting** - The Executive Secretary read a summary of last year's Affiliate Meeting, held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, in Bakersfield, California.
3. **Dog Aggression Rules & Conflict Resolution Protocol** - These are recurring topics for each Affiliate Meeting to go over ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules, Conflict Resolution Protocol, and an affiliate's responsibilities regarding the processes and required documentation. It is important everyone helping at an ASCA event is familiar with these rules.
 - a. Liz Gibson suggested ASCA develop a step-by-step video guide to these rules for our YouTube channel.
 - b. Ann McCabe and Susan Severns suggested affiliates mention these rules as an announcement at the beginning of an event/during the handlers' meeting to help spread awareness.
 - c. Debbie Martin suggested having protections in place for those who report aggression/bites.
 - d. Jayne Lips suggested affiliates include a note in their event premiums to remind about the processes. In response, Laura Abbott expressed concerns about the growing list of premium requirements.
 - e. If anyone at a show has a question about ASCA's rules, any of ASCA's Directors can be called to help sort things out. Contact info can be found here: <https://www.asca.org/home/about-asca/board-of-directors/current/>
4. **Judge Evaluations** - This is an annual reminder to affiliates about the judge evaluation forms that are available for them to fill out and return with the paperwork for an event. Feedback from the forms remains anonymous and is compiled to determine any patterns/ongoing issues for the program committees to address through judge education. These forms are not the place to file official complaints - that should be handled at the time of the incident through the conflict resolution process.

- a. Jayne Lips wondered about the process for follow-up on negative judge evaluations. Depending on the situation, direct follow-up with the affiliate or the judge may or may not happen.
 - b. Program committees may choose to revise their rules to have a designated committee member copied on all judge evaluations received by the Business Office.
5. **Impact of COVID-19** - This was an opportunity for affiliate members to share any issues they have been facing related to COVID-19 and what ASCA can do to alleviate the impact.
- a. Canadian affiliates have been particularly affected due to travel restrictions. Program committees should consider developing temporary qualifications for non-ASCA judges to judge for ASCA, since there are so few ASCA judges in Canada.
 - b. Regarding the temporary 30-day sanctioning deadline, those present were appreciative of the shortened timeframe and found it has been helpful in planning/adjusting plans for events. Eventually, this deadline will need to return to 60-days, but the Board is glad affiliates are able to take advantage currently.
 - c. Ann DeChant brought up the importance of preserving grandfathered event dates through these uncertain times. As well, Affiliates that were unable to hold shows/trials/educational events this year, as is normally required, will not be penalized. Please communicate with the Business Office and they will take care of things.
 - d. Director Creelman reminded that following the local/state/federal regulations/guidelines regarding COVID-19 is vital to being able to continue holding dog shows.
6. **California Areas** - California is currently split into three areas (for show postings/locations only) and if an affiliate wishes to hold an event outside their area, they must first obtain permission from the affiliates in that area. Because of COVID-19 show/trial venues are hard to secure and affiliates can find themselves looking outside their area. Director Creelman recently proposed lowering the amount of areas from three to two, but it has yet to be voted on by the Board.
- a. Some programs provide that one club's event must not conflict on the same day with another club's event held within a 200-mile radius of the event unless both clubs concur in writing that this may occur. Directors Creelman and Larson plan to work on a similar solution for conformation in California.
7. **Unfinished Business** - This was an opportunity for members to bring up previously addressed, but unresolved issues related to Affiliate Clubs.
- a. Donna Padgett shared her disappointment in the Board's decision to not allow the 2020 Finalists to compete at the 2021 Finals. This topic will be addressed during tomorrow's Membership Meeting.
8. **Additional** - No new business was brought forward and there were no announcements.
- a. The Affiliate Meeting happens once a year, but that is not the only time the Board wants to hear from affiliates. Whenever there is an issue affecting your club, please write to asca.execsec@gmail.com to keep the Board informed and see what we can do to help.
9. Motion to adjourn by Denise Creelman, seconded by Jayne Lips.

Many thanks to all who attended the meeting!

Minutes of the Virtual Membership Meeting

The recording of this meeting may be listened to on ASCA's:

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC490D1qEJtV7oiDp6KOEhEvA>

Wednesday, October 28

In accordance with ASCA's Bylaws, this meeting is typically held at ASCA's National Specialty each year for members of ASCA to meet face-to-face and discuss issues affecting our club. President Busquets called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm CDT and it was adjourned at 9:20 pm CDT.

In attendance were: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Rachel Vest, Treasurer Warren Evans, Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Gina Larson, Director Jean Roberts, Incoming Director Carol Gerken, Office Manager Ray Fryar, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Here is a list of additional attendees: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nyfwbRxons9wyMA1tWGknjK_AlopWUIY/view?usp=sharing

Topics Discussed/Acted On:

1. **Welcome & Introductions** - President Busquets introduced the Board and staff, welcomed everyone, and went over expectations for the meeting. Incoming Director Carol Gerken was officially welcomed to the Board - her term begins

this evening. She was elected this past July, along with incumbent directors Liz Busquets and Denise Creelman, to serve until 2023. Outgoing Director Rachel Vest was thanked for her tireless service to ASCA these past six years.

2. **Summary of 2019 Meeting** - The Executive Secretary read a summary of last year's Membership Meeting, held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, in Bakersfield, California.

3. **National Specialty Sites** - ASCA has contracted with the Brazos County Expo in Bryan, Texas, to host the ASCA National Specialty through 2023. The Board is using this time to investigate other sites, however - possibly located more toward the geographical center of the United States of America.

- a. Director Creelman recently visited two sites in Nebraska - Fonner Park in Grand Island and Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. She shared her experiences and fielded questions from members about the facilities and accommodations. There are still many details to be researched.

4. **Draw for 2022 Stockdog Finals Judges** - The Board conducted a random draw of all ASCA Stockdog Judges who satisfy the qualifications listed in 22.7.2 to judge the Stockdog Finals. In accordance with the Board's recent decision to lower the amount of judges used, the 2022 Nationals Host Committee will hire three judges from the following list.

- a. Maarten Walter
- b. Cheryl Padgett
- c. Preston Kissman
- d. Maxine Schvaneveldt
- e. Rick Hardin
- f. John Knepper
- g. Brad Warren

5. **Draw for 2022 National Conformation Show Judges** - The Board conducted a random draw of up to 15 ASCA Senior Breeder Judges and up to 5 ASCA Approved Breeder Judges who satisfy the requirements listed in 9.4 to judge the National Conformation Show. The 2022 Nationals Host Committee hires their judges from the following lists.

- a. Approved Breeder Judges:
 - i. Flo McDaniel
 - ii. Keli Gaunt
 - iii. Karen Roesner
 - iv. Brandy Greenhagen
- b. Senior Breeder Judges:
 - i. Kelly Sweeney
 - ii. Kerry Kirtley
 - iii. Melinda Vinson
 - iv. Lynda Hardin
 - v. Donna Wright
 - vi. Sharon Sparks
 - vii. Susan Rossy
 - viii. Nanette Newbury
 - ix. Leslie Sorensen
 - x. Terri Burkhart
 - xi. Susan Harris
 - xii. Lisa C Bell
 - xiii. Mary Hellmeister
 - xiv. Glenda Stephenson
 - xv. Liz Gibson

6. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Evans updated the membership regarding ASCA's current fiscal condition and projections for the future. He went through the reports for period ending September 30, 2020, which are available in the member's only section of the ASCA website. Reports are now published monthly for members and Mr. Evans is available to answers any questions you may have. The recently approved budget for ASCA's 2021 fiscal year was also discussed, along with Mr. Evans' ideas to capitalize on ASCA's investments.

- a. Sandi Viscusi asked if there were significant reductions in expenses in 2020 since the onset of COVID-19. Mr. Evans responded that steps were immediately taken to cut ASCA's expenses, such as lowering staff hours and making an issue of the Aussie Times online only. Cancellation of the 2020 Nationals & Finals will also result in savings for ASCA, unfortunate as the situation may be.
- b. Mary Dudman asked if ASCA lost money from the cancellation of the 2020 Nationals & Finals or were all refunded? Mr. Evans responded with the good news that the Georgia International Horse Park fully refunded our deposit after cancellation of the event.
- c. Donna and Tony Padgett asked if ASCA applied for any paycheck protection or disaster assistance? Mr. Evans explained that we were eligible for a loan through the paycheck protection program, but it required all ASCA's assets as collateral, which was not something the Board was willing to do. We did receive payroll assistance through the Texas Workforce Commission.
- d. Jerry Afox asked if we will have audited statements at year end for ASCA's tax filing. Typically, these statements are available for the membership to view in person at the meeting and can also be requested from the Business Office. Mr. Evans will find out if it is possible to publish the statements in the member's only section of the ASCA website.

- e. Sandi Viscusi asked if there were reduced or new expenses with people working from home due to COVID-19. Mr. Evans noted that the office staff did not do much work from home. Because the office is well suited to physical distancing, once the shelter in place order was lifted, our staff was able to safely return to work.
7. **System Liaison's Report** - Director Evans spoke briefly about ASCA's arrangement with Inventive and their proposal to rebuild our platform and structure something to allow for future system growth. Our strategy for handling this will depend on what the system upgrade committee determines we can manage.
8. **Decision About 2020 Finalists** - Ann McCabe spoke, as a competitor and concerned ASCA member, to respectfully request the Board reconsider their decision to not allow the 2020 Finalists to compete in the 2021 Finals. She urged the Board to let committees determine what is best for their program.
9. **Committee/Other Reports** - Each year committee chairs (or designated representatives) give a not-to-exceed ten-minute report of their committee's activity. *Note:* Volunteers are the backbone of ASCA. If any of the below interests you, please consider putting forward some time to help on a committee or with Aussie rescue. Our programs can thrive with your support!
 - a. **Aussie Rescue & Placement Helpline** - Report given by Crystal Aguilar, on behalf of Kay Marks, President of ARPH. ARPH is the official rescue of ASCA and has been dedicated to helping Aussies in need for over twenty-eight years.
 - b. **Agility Committee** - Report given by Chair Jan Niblock. Compared to last year, there were significant decreases in the number of dogs competing and titles earned. The committee submitted several rule change recommendations for Board consideration this past year, including temporary allowances due to COVID-19, and added new course reviewers. The committee spent over two months debating the feasibility of a virtual agility program but were unable to come to an agreement.
 - c. **Conformation Committee** - Report given by Chair Liz Gibson. This past year saw the cancellation of many conformation shows due to COVID-19, which resulted in lost revenue for Affiliate Clubs and ASCA, as well as lost opportunities for people to exhibit their dogs. As the number of shows increases, please remember to follow local/state/federal guidelines to ensure our shows can continue.
 - i. The new Supreme Conformation Championship program kicks off on June 1, 2021. This program is to provide continued competition and titling opportunities for ASCA conformation champions.
 - d. **Dock Jumping Committee** - Report given by Chair Heidi Mobley. The committee is currently working on recalculating the points earned in some divisions and discussing the role of dock jumping at the National Specialty.
 - e. **Hall of Fame Committee** - Report given by Chair Kristina Churchill. The committee is currently working on new titles/awards of excellence for Hall of Fame in each ASCA program (conformation, stockdog, etc.) and hopes to present a recommendation for Board consideration by the end of 2020.
 - f. **Junior Committee** - Report given by Liaison Creelman, on behalf of Chair Andrea Armstrong Bair. The committee has been working on clarifying rules and developing an approval process for Junior Handling Judges. The committee also worked on revising the junior stock program, and plan to develop a 500 Club program for stock junior handlers. Soon to follow are similar revisions to the junior agility program. The report commended juniors (and parents) for their resilience during this difficult time.
 - g. There was no report from the Legislative Committee.
 - h. **Most Versatile Aussie Committee** - Report given by Renee Watson, on behalf of Chair Janet Colby. The committee has been working hard on revising the MVA competition rules and scoring. For example, stock work historically accounted for 15% of total possible points and the committee is looking at increasing that to 25-30% and to reward teams that work consistently on all three types of stock. The committee wants to be sure the scoring is fair and weighted appropriately to reflect the Aussie's purpose as a working stock dog.
 - i. **Obedience Committee** - Report given by Chair Betsy Coleman. The committee is excited about the launch of the virtual beginner novice obedience program and hopes that members will take advantage. They hope it encourages members to continue working with their dogs to earn titles during this difficult time. Additionally, we are all working hard to find safe ways to continue to show our dogs in person. If Affiliate Clubs need any assistance on holding safe obedience trials, please feel free to reach out to the committee. There were fourteen recommendations submitted by the committee for Board consideration last year.

- j. **Rally Committee** - Report given by Chair Karen Black. In 2020 we added four new judges and several others are at various stages in the application/move-up process. This is good news for the program since judges are not traveling as much because of COVID-19, and it is more important than ever to increase our pool of judges. Ms. Black reminded that 2021 will be a testing year for rally judges. The committee has been working on several rule clarifications. This year also saw a significant decrease in the number of ASCA rally trials. The committee hopes the newly developed virtual novice rally program (advanced levels soon to follow) will provide opportunities to continue working with our dogs despite the lack of in person trials.
 - k. **Scent Search Committee** - Report given by Chair Donna Armstrong. The committee is working on developing the foundation and basic definitions of the program and hope to have a proposal for Board consideration during their 2021 Spring Meeting.
 - i. As well, Ms. Armstrong expressed her disappointment with the Board's decision this past summer to discontinue the \$200 stipend for committee chairs that attend the National Specialty and give their report at the Membership Meeting and requested it be reinstated.
 - l. **Stockdog Committee** - Report given by Chair Dan Sanderson. Recently, the committee provided their response to the Board's directive to present a plan to reduce the cost of Stockdog Finals and/or increase related income and Mr. Sanderson thanked the Board for instituting some of their recommendations. Despite the impact from COVID-19 at the end of 2019, that year remained strong for stockdog, farm, and ranch trials. The committee has remained active and productive thanks to the contributions of hard-working members. They are currently considering a time & points (wild card) proposal from members.
 - m. **Tracking Committee** - Report given by Chair Jacqueline Tinker. The committee has been working on new programs and titles to encourage participation in tracking, such as the Tracking Interest Profile non-titling program and the Beginner Tracking Dog and Urban Tracking Dog-X titling programs. The committee is also working on updating the tracking rules.
 - n. **History Committee** - Report given by Chair Ann DeChant. The Mission of the History Committee is to preserve, protect, and document the heritage of ASCA and the Australian Shepherd. The committee is also responsible for recommending the ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient each year. Committee member Jeanne-Joy Hartnagle Taylor has written articles about ASCA history for the Aussie Times and we plan to publish two per year. The committee is working on a project to convert many hours of movies of stock trials, provided by Nick Davis, from 8-millimeter film to digital to add to ASCA's YouTube channel library.
10. **Lifetime Achievement Award** - This year's recipient is Gail Karamalegos, presented by Director Roberts. Ms. Karamalegos' storied involvement in ASCA began in 1988 when she purchased an Aussie puppy from a rancher and, a year later, she purchased her first conformation bred puppy. Since then, Ms. Karamalegos has been an active member of Eastex ASC for over 24 years and served on the ASCA Breed Standard Review Committee and the Conformation Committee. Her kennel achieved Hall of Fame in 2012 and, in addition to being a Senior Breeder Judge, Ms. Karamalegos has worked diligently to provide education about Aussies, the Breed Standard, and conformation ring etiquette and judging. She has held various positions in the planning and hosting of several ASCA National Specialties. Ms. Karamalegos has served ASCA for over 30 years and her commitment to the organization and to the Australian Shepherd breed makes this a well-deserved recognition. Thank you, Ms. Karamalegos, for your service and incredible love for the breed!
- a. Ms. Karamalegos expressed her gratitude for the award and spoke briefly about her time in ASCA.
11. **Virtual Titling Program** - ASCA's new virtual titling program is up and running and Heidi Mobley, our virtual titling clerk, gave an update on the status. Over the first two weeks there were 6 obedience and 26 rally entries. Turnaround on judging and results is approximately 2-3 days. We hope you will join your fellow competitors in taking advantage of this new program!
12. **Unfinished Business** - This was an opportunity for members to bring up discussions on previously addressed, but unresolved issues.
- a. The Board recently passed several motions regarding Finals entry fees and the Additional Event Membership Dues. All Finals entry fees were raised to the following amounts, effective immediately: Agility \$80, Conformation \$75, Obedience \$75, Rally \$75, Stockdog - Ducks \$100, Sheep \$125, Cattle \$150. Entry fee for Junior Finals remains at \$0. AEMD were raised to the following amounts, effective June 1, 2021: \$1.25 per entry for stockdog events, \$0.50 per entry for all other program events.

- i. Nikki Heep asked if the increase to Finals entry fees and the AEMD is permanent or just for 2021 due to COVID-19. The changes are permanent, but the Board plans to remain flexible and open to adapting ASCA's fees as the situation with COVID-19 develops.
 - ii. Dorothy Bowers asked when the increase to the AEMD is effective. The increase goes into effect on June 1, 2021, to hopefully give shows a chance to pick back up and Affiliate Clubs an opportunity to recover.
 - iii. Susan Byrne asked if the increase in Finals entry fees, specifically agility, could be addressed. Some agility competitors think the program already contributes enough to ASCA. President Busquets explained that, by design, Finals entry fees for all programs are collected and placed in one shared fund.
 - iv. Nikki Heep asked if the increase in entry fees for Agility Finals will lead to restoration of placement rosettes instead of flats. President Busquets advised that is a question for the Nationals Committee.
 - b. There was a question from the chat about ASCA developing a policy for safe shows/trials during COVID-19. Guidelines from ASCA can be found here: <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/5-26-2020-COVID-19-Guidelines-from-ASCA.pdf>
13. **Additional** - No new business was brought forward. There was one announcement.
- a. Betty Jaco (Chair of the 2022 ASCA National Specialty) reminded members that ASCA is currently seeking volunteers for the 2022 Nationals Committee. Please review the list of positions and contact Ms. Jaco with any questions. ASCA needs your help!
14. Motion to adjourn from Ann DeChant, seconded by Kristina Churchill.

We are so grateful to everyone that was able to attend the meeting!

Respectfully submitted by Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.