



AUSTRALIAN
SHEPHERD
CLUB OF
AMERICA, INC.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

November 2021



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. Please contact asca.execsec@gmail.com with any feedback.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New ASCA Judges:

Provisional Stockdog Judge Kathy Males (Illinois)
Provisional Breeder Judge Judy VanDerSteen (Wisconsin)

2021-2022 ASCA Board of Directors:

President Liz Busquets
1st Vice President Gina Larson
2nd Vice President Rick Gann
Treasurer Jan Wesen
Secretary Ann McCabe
Director Susan Byrne
Director Denise Creelman
Director Carol Gerken
Director Jean Roberts

New ASCA Crisis Judges:

Conformation Crisis Judge Horst Sollereder (Austria)

The show/trial sanctioning deadline increased to 60-days on November 1. **Any affiliates in areas still affected by COVID-19 related restrictions may contact the Board for special consideration.**

Miscellaneous:

Jay Blair will serve as RV/camping/golf cart chair for the 2022 Nationals.
Sally Reynolds has been suspended from ASCA for six-months.

ASCA Nationals Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 30, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Absent (due to judging): Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director-elect Ann McCabe.

Also present (with times noted): Karen Black (12:00 pm to 1:00 pm).

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 10:28 am and it was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Membership Retention Survey

According to Section 9.6.2 in ASCA's Policy Book, the ASCA Business Office is to deploy a membership retention survey via email within the first week of March and September. This survey is sent to those with lapsed full individual or dual memberships from the previous six months. Data is then compiled after thirty days and submitted to an appointed member of the Board for analysis of results and recommendations based on survey feedback.

ASCA began sending the membership retention survey in 2009, but it was last deployed in 2017. Previous surveys showed two kinds of lapsed members - those who became members solely to register a single dog and those who forgot to renew.

The Board agrees the Business Office should send this survey out in March, according to policy. Director Roberts will work with the Business Office's Assistant Manager on this in January 2022.

Registered Agent

ASCA is required to have a person, known as a Registered Agent, with a physical address in Washington, to receive all legal documents and communication from the state of Washington on behalf of the club.

Michelle Berryessa has generously been ASCA's Registered Agent for many years. It is now time for ASCA to hire a company for this service. Director Roberts investigated several options, in consultation with ASCA's Counsel, and will present a motion for Board consideration in December.

Annual Appointment of System Liaison

The Board appoints the System Liaison annually at the Nationals meeting. The System Liaison oversees the ASCA Website and supervises the ASCA Webmaster, presents a computer system strategy to the Board during the Nationals each year, and supervises development and implementation of the strategy. Director Larson graciously agreed to continue in her current position.

BD.21.104 Appointment of System Liaison

Motion *carries* (7-0-1) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Roberts. Disapprove: None. Abstain: Larson. Absent: Wesen.

Motion by Roberts to appoint Gina Larson as System Liaison. Second by Gerken.

Storage Unit for Nationals Supplies

Now that ASCA is hosting the National Specialty, there are items that will be used year after year and will need to be stored. We currently have a storage unit (\$110 per month) covered by the 2021 Nationals budget. Starting in June, the 2022 Nationals budget will cover the cost. That leaves payment for the unit's rental uncovered from December 2021 to May 2022. The Board agreed to pay for the unit during this time.

Moving forward, the Board's preference is to purchase a storage container to keep on ASCA's property in Bryan. Director Byrne will investigate this possibility and report back to the Board in December.

BD.21.105 ASCA Storage Unit for Nationals

Motion *carries* (8-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wesen.

Motion by Byrne that ASCA assume financial responsibility for the current Nationals storage unit for up to three months. Second by Larson.

Additionally, the Board agreed to give away miscellaneous decorative items from Nationals, send miscellaneous office supplies from Nationals to the Business Office, and to sell unsold Nationals merchandise online after the event.

Recognition Awards

ASCA is fortunate to operate primarily on the efforts of our volunteers and minimal staff. Director Larson and others believe that a recognition program would go a long way towards recognizing these efforts and increasing morale. The Board would like to revisit this during the Spring Meeting. Director Larson will present a motion for Board consideration in 2022.

Ernest Hartnagle Award Selection Committee

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 11:18 am to 11:23 am. Last year, a group of people who were close with the late Mr. Hartnagle proposed and implemented the ASCA Foundation's Ernest Hartnagle Memorial Icon Award, as well as selected the first recipients of the award. The Board agreed to officially adopt this working group as the selection committee for the award. Anyone else who is interested in serving on the selection committee may submit their application to the Executive Secretary for consideration at any time.

Here is the selection committee's makeup:

Region 1 - Michael Ryan

Region 3 - Lynn Hamon

Region 4 - Ann DeChant, Tanya Wheeler, Sunday Miles, Robbi Norman, Bill Van Hecke

Region 5 - Steve Shope

Region 6 - Peter Kontos

Excused Dog

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 11:23 am to 11:24 am. Director Gann was assigned to investigate two excusals received by a dog. He will have a report for the Board in December.

Nationals Refund Request

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 11:24 am to 11:29 am. The Board agreed to allow a refund of Nationals entries for an exhibitor who was unable to attend.

September & October Email Business

Due to the requirements of Washington State Law, each face-to-face meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via email since the last meeting.

BD.21.108 September & October 2021 Email Business

Motion *carries* (8-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts.

Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wesen.

Motion by Creelman to ratify all business conducted by the Board over email in September and October 2021. Second by Larson.

Committee Reports

Committee Liaisons briefly shared updates with the Board about how their committee has been functioning.

Obedience Committee

Liaison Roberts reported that the committee is working well and communicating effectively.

History Committee

Liaison Roberts reported the committee was tasked with developing a more transparent process for accepting nominations and selecting recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award, but there has been little progress.

BD.21.109 History Committee Directive - Lifetime Achievement Award

Motion *carries* (8-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts.

Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wesen.

Motion by Roberts to send the following directive to the History Committee: 1) the committee will develop a process for making and receiving nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award by February 1, 2022, 2) the process will include those nominations be sent to the Executive Secretary to be shared with the committee, 3)

the committee will honor multiple nominees per year, and 4) the committee will conduct all discussions on the committee's groups.io. Second by Gerken.

Legislative Committee

Liaison Roberts reported that the committee works as needed on animal legislation issues.

Rally Committee

Liaison Gann reported that the committee's chair will be meeting with the Board today for a discussion.

Stockdog Committee

Liaison Gann reported that the committee is communicating and working together well. There could be improvements in how the Board's message is conveyed to the committee by the chair.

Conformation Committee

Liaison Boone reported that the committee has been operating very well since their new chair was elected. They have been working on big projects with much discussion.

Hall of Fame Committee

Liaison Creelman reported that the committee is not working on anything new. They recently completed the Stockdog Kennel of Excellence title for qualifying kennels.

Junior Committee

Liaison Creelman reported that the committee typically works in bursts, and they make a good team. They are planning to have a kid's costume parade at the Nationals today.

Scent Search Committee

Liaison Creelman reported that the committee is very active and has been working hard to create ASCA's Scent Search program.

Meeting with Rally Committee

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. The Board met with Rally Committee Chair Karen Black to discuss several issues related to the committee and program including software for ASCA rally course building and pre-trial course review for rally judges.

The meeting was suspended at 1:00 pm.

Sunday, October 31, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Secretary Judy Boone (joined at 3:27 pm), Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken (joined at 2:27 pm), Director Jean Roberts (via phone), Director-elect Ann McCabe, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Also present (with times noted): Andrea Armstrong Bair (from 3:05 pm to 3:20 pm), Renee Watson (from 4:02 pm to 5:35 pm), and Laura Gibson (from 4:02 pm to 5:35 pm).

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and it was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Committee Reports, Continued

Following-up on yesterday's reports, Liaison Wesen briefly shared updates with the Board about how her committees have been functioning. The members of the Agility, Dock Jumping, MVA, and Tracking Committees are all working well together and focusing on relevant projects.

Norms

Directors agreed the norms are useful and important in keeping Board discussions professional and respectful.

2022 ASCA Budget

Treasurer Wesen presented the proposed budget for ASCA's operating costs for 2022. Directors reviewed and shared their thoughts/questions on several items. Directors agreed it was proper to budget for all needed equipment (such as new computers) for the Business Office, in addition to the computer system rebuild.

While discussing credit card processing fees, it was suggested the Board consider increasing all registry and membership fees based on increased operating costs over the years. As an example, ASCA charges \$15/\$30 for individual dog registration and that has not been changed since 2007. Director Byrne will research the impact and prepare a motion for Board consideration in 2022.

Break from 2:40 pm to 2:55 pm to attend Rally Finals Awards Presentation.

BD.21.110 2022 ASCA Budget

Motion *carries* (7-1-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts. Disapprove: None. Abstain: Wesen. Absent: Boone.

Motion by Byrne to accept the budget as presented for 2022 Second by Larson.

Finals Entry Fees

In November 2014, the Board changed all ASCA Finals entry fees to \$60.00 and agreed to revisit the fees at each Nationals meeting. In October 2020, the fees were raised to the following amounts: Agility \$80, Conformation \$75, Junior \$0, Obedience \$75, Rally \$75, Stockdog - Ducks \$100, Sheep \$125, Cattle \$150.

Some Directors were in favor of raising fees due to increased operating costs, while others were hesitant to raise fees again so soon. The Board agreed to wait until the 2021 Nationals financial report is presented and we can look at how the 2020 increases affected the bottom line.

Meeting with Junior Committee

The Board met with Junior Committee Chair Andrea Armstrong Bair to discuss several issues related to the committee and program.

The committee requests the "500 Club Parade" at Nationals be renamed to an award presentation since it's not a parade. Liaison Larson will ask the 2022 Nationals Chairperson to update the premium.

Ms. Bair inquired about a significant donation from NorCal ASC and Feather River ASC in memory of Sahara Lowry sent in September and how that might be used for the junior program. Treasurer Wesen will follow-up with the Office Manager.

The committee is interested in increasing the amount of money sent to juniors earning merit awards. Currently, a check from ASCA is issued for junior merit award winners in the following amounts: \$75 for the High Score Winners, \$25 for the over-all High Score Winners, and \$75 for All-Around Junior. This is something the Board could consider via a recommendation from the Junior Committee.

The committee continues to work on expanding the points club/jacket program for the junior stockdog and performance programs.

2022 Nationals Budget

Liaison Larson presented the proposed budget for the 2022 ASCA National Specialty. Directors reviewed and shared their thoughts/questions on several items. The Board discussed what compensation is provided to Nationals Committee members and what is expected of them in return.

BD.21.111 2022 Nationals Budget

Motion *carries* (7-1-1) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: Gann. Abstain: Byrne. Absent: None.

Motion by Larson to approve the 2022 National Specialty Budget as presented. Second by Boone.

Meeting with Nationals Advisory Committee

The Board met with Renee Watson and Laura Gibson of the Nationals Advisory Committee to discuss several topics related to the National Specialty.

They went over problems with this year's ribbons and what improvements can be made to the ordering and receiving process. One suggestion to hopefully mitigate these issues is to have the Nationals Ribbons Chair do all the ribbon ordering, etc. for Nationals and Finals. Currently, the Chair orders for Nationals and the Business Office orders for Finals. The opposite has also been suggested - to have the Business Office order all ribbons.

It was suggested that the Nationals Advisory Committee work on a handbook/guideline for Nationals Chairs and Nationals Committee members separate from the Nationals Rules. Future Chairs should have served on recent Nationals Committees and future Nationals Committee members should have experience in the program/field they are volunteering for - not just the desire to work. The NAC will work on a handbook and mentorship program for Nationals Chairs.

Several Directors have taken issue with being presented with balanced budgets for Nationals. We should have an expectation for profit and should budget accordingly. Alternatively, ways to substantiate money for the Nationals should be included with the balanced budget as an addendum. After this year's event, we will also have more accurate information to base future budgets on.

It is unclear if ASCA can expect to profit at all using the same type of model used in the past by affiliates. The Nationals Advisory Committee should be looking into ways to streamline the process now that ASCA is hosting the event. Just because it was done one way with affiliates does not mean that is how we need to continue.

The Nationals Advisory Committee is also tasked with researching suitable sites to host the Nationals around the United States. The site requirements need to be updated/more detailed. There also needs to be a report of which sites have already been investigated and note why they were deemed not suitable for ASCA's needs. It is important that ASCA settle the site rotation issue and move forward with planning future events.

2023 Nationals Site

The Brazos Expo has increased the cost of the facility for the 2023 Nationals in accordance with the escalation clause in our contract. We were previously assured the increase would be the lowest amount, but they have decided to increase it by the highest amount. The Board can continue with having the 2023 Nationals at the Brazos Expo or ASCA can break the contract for a fee of \$1,000 and move the event to another location.

BD.21.112 2023 Nationals Site

Motion *fails* (4-5) - Approve: Boone, Creelman, Larson, Roberts. Disapprove: Busquets, Byrne, Gann, Gerken, Wesen. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Roberts to break ASCA's contract with the Brazos Expo in Bryan, Texas, to host the 2023 ASCA National Specialty and instead go to Bakersfield, California. Second by Larson.

The meeting was suspended at 6:00 pm.

Monday, November 1, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), Director-elect Ann McCabe, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Absent: Treasurer Jan Wesen.

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 8:42 pm and it was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 8:42 pm to 9:19 pm. The Board voted to suspend Sally Reynolds from all ASCA privileges for six-months because of unsportsmanlike/unprofessional conduct.

The meeting was suspended at 9:19 pm.

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Secretary Judy Boone, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), Director-elect Ann McCabe, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm and it was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 5:34 pm to 6:45 pm. The Board met to deliberate on a request for conflict resolution.

The meeting was suspended at 6:45 pm.

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

In attendance: Liz Busquets, Susan Byrne, Denise Creelman, Rick Gann, Carol Gerken, Gina Larson, Ann McCabe, Jean Roberts (via phone), Jan Wesen, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 8:12 pm and it was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Election of ASCA Officers

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 8:12 pm to 8:24 pm. The Board voted to elect the Officers of the ASCA and ASCA Foundation for 2021-2022. Here are the Officers and Directors:

President Liz Busquets
1st Vice President Gina Larson
2nd Vice President Rick Gann
Treasurer Jan Wesen
Secretary Ann McCabe
Director Susan Byrne
Director Denise Creelman
Director Carol Gerken

Director Jean Roberts
Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco
Election Secretary & Membership Secretary Ray Fryar

The meeting was suspended at 8:24 pm.

Thursday, November 4, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Gina Larson, 2nd Vice President Rick Gann, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Ann McCabe, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm and it was adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 5:10 pm to 5:42 pm. The Board met to deliberate on a request for conflict resolution.

The meeting was suspended at 5:42 pm.

Friday, November 5, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Gina Larson, 2nd Vice President Rick Gann, Treasurer Jan Wesen (joined at 11:19 am), Secretary Ann McCabe, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Also present (with times noted): Heidi Mobley (from 10:10 am to 10:53 am), Donna Armstrong (from 10:54 am to 11:35 am), Office Manager Ray Fryar (from 11:55 am to 12:45 pm), Maarten Walter (from 12:45 pm to 1:25 pm), Counsel David Schleicher (from 1:05 pm to 4:12 pm).

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and it was adjourned at 4:12 pm.

Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 10:00 am to 10:10 am. The Board met to deliberate on a request for conflict resolution.

Website Hosting and Support

The Board met with Webmaster Heidi Mobley to discuss ASCA's WordPress website. ASCA currently uses Web Unlimited to host our site, but we are now looking to migrate the WordPress environment due to lack of necessary support from the vendor. System Liaison Larson will present bids from at least three hosting services for the Board to consider. Once that is done, there are plans to update the website's design in 2022.

Ms. Mobley explained the roles involved in designing and managing the website - a designer/content manager, an IT person, and a programmer - and how ASCA can best fill those roles.

Virtual Titling Program

Virtual Titling Secretary Heidi Mobley gave the Board an update on ASCA's virtual titling program and her thoughts for its future. The program was primarily designed to offer titling opportunities to exhibitors in areas affected by pandemic restrictions. As those restrictions are being lifted or lessened, entry numbers have been continually declining. Her recommendation is to let the program end as it has served its purpose.

Dock Jumping Program

The Board met with Dock Jumping Committee Chair Heidi Mobley to talk about ASCA's dock jumping program. The program currently makes money because the only cost for ASCA is paper and postage. This program is new, but popular, and has a lot of passionate supporters in the Aussie community. Ms. Mobley believes she can raise the money from the membership to pay for the cost of programming if that is a concern for the Board. The committee also continues to investigate options for increased access to pools for ASCA Affiliates.

Scent Search

The Board met with Scent Search Committee Chair Donna Armstrong to hear an update on ASCA's pending scent search program. They are working on a preliminary set of rules for the Board to review in 2022.

ASCA Business Office and the National Specialty

The Board met with the Office Manager to discuss the function of the Business Office related to the ASCA Nationals. The plan is to hire an additional employee and shift the responsibility for Nationals-related office work, such as entry clerk, to the Assistant Manager. However, more involvement from the Business Office with Nationals should be postponed until the system rebuild is completed. There are also concerns about the ability to accommodate a new employee. Considering the lack of space and condition of the current building, it's important for the Board to prioritize construction of a new office building following completion of the system rebuild. In the meantime, there are some ways to rearrange the current office that the Office Manager is considering.

The Office Manager thinks a handbook for the Nationals Committee will be very helpful in keeping everything on track for the event. Director McCabe plans to work on revisions to the timeline for selection of Nationals and Finals judges so they are consistent. Some time was spent talking about what is involved with the ribbon order for Nationals and what caused some of the issues this year, as well as what we can do to prevent them in the future, such as checking invoices. For the 2022 Nationals ribbon ordering, the Executive Secretary will research ribbon companies and provide three bids for the Board to consider.

Director McCabe also suggested that all Finals invites be sent by email. It was agreed that this would ensure quicker receipt and turn-around, as well as cut down on postage and mailing costs.

Computer System Report

The Board met with Maarten Walter, who has been leading the Web ASCA Rebuild Project (WARP-1) with Inventive. He reports that we are halfway done with the project and are on target regarding number of hours used and number of dollars spent, but behind target on timing. This is due to the issues discovered in the legacy environment, staff changes, and holidays. Some new items were also introduced that caused minor scope creep but with great long-term benefits. Production rollout planning will begin in November with a phased rollout of functionality to obtain real-world feedback.

Mr. Walter reminded that ASCA can only publish people's personal information (for example, the public judge directory on the website and event premiums) with consent. When members login to the new portal they will be given the option to opt-in or opt-out. ASCA needs a process to handle what happens when a person does not consent to sharing their information, but they are appointed to a position which requires publication of their information.

Credit Card/PCI Compliance

Mr. Walter talked with Inventive about building a framework up front as part of this project so that when the Business Office is ready to remove the credit card information from the forms the framework is already in

place, and it will be simple for Inventive to add that functionality to the online payments via Authorize.net. This project will take planning and coordination between the paper forms changing and the online function becoming available. Inventive will have a cost estimate by the end November.

WordPress and Website Recommendations

Mr. Walter shared his thoughts and recommendation on ASCA's search for a new vendor to host our WordPress environment. There are two options available: a dedicated WordPress support service provider or a cloud-based WordPress environment that is supported by the ASCA web team. Mr. Walter strongly recommends migrating the current WordPress environment to a dedicated WordPress support service. He recommends WP Engine, based on services offered and positive testimonials from multiple people, including Inventive. This will allow WP Engine to support and run the entire WordPress environment and let the ASCA team concentrate on the website design and overall page maintenance.

ASCA's Digital Future

Phase two of the Web ASCA Rebuild Project will include further automation and elimination of all paper-based forms and further automation of Business Office functions. As ASCA's systems become cloud-based and server-less, the support (and cost) should decrease. Business Office costs should decrease as well, but this frequently does not occur. ASCA must ensure that a strong focus and technical expertise exists within the organization.

Certagen DNA Processing

In July 2020, ASCA agreed to an understanding with Certagen and Paw Print Genetics for the processing of DNA samples for parentage verification of dogs registered with ASCA for breeding. Paw Print Genetics allowed Certagen to use their proprietary single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers, limited to identification and parentage (sire/dam) of dogs owned by ASCA members and ASCA clients living in Europe. ASCA was assured this would be done in time for the September 2020 switch from our prior primary lab to Paw Print Genetics, but various setbacks have delayed the transition until the end of November 2021. Samples tested by Certagen during this time were run using the old markers, but they have offered to re-run all ASCA related samples since May 2021 with the SNP markers. Counsel will find out from Certagen what happens with the samples tested between September 2020 and May 2021.

Paw Print Genetics, while based in the United States, accepts samples from around the world. Director Larson will reach out to Dr. Schaffer about Paw Print Genetics' ability to test samples of dogs of ASCA members outside the United States and the Board will discuss during their December meeting.

Nationals Committee Member Reimbursement

The Board talked with Counsel about the proper way to reimburse volunteers on the Nationals Committee. ASCA currently offers reimbursement per policy that varies by position. Continuing with that practice is acceptable if committee members receive no additional money besides the agreed upon reimbursement.

Program Rules in the Nationals Rule Book

Director McCabe has been working on a proposal to transfer the rules related to the National Specialty from the individual program rule books to consolidate in the Nationals rule book. The intent is to make it less complicated for those putting on the Nationals by having one place where all the rules for running the program events can be found. Although these rules would be moved to the Nationals rule book, the content is still the purview of the committee. Directors will get their feedback to Director McCabe and then she will present the proposed sections for transfer over email in December.

Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 2:10 pm to 3:55 pm. The Board met to deliberate on a request for conflict resolution.

Sanctioning Request

The Board received a request from Lakeside Australian Shepherd Club to sanction a show late but without penalty. Unfortunately, this affiliate has not sent in results for a show held September 4-5, 2021, so they are unable to sanction any events until those results are submitted to the Business Office.

BD.21.115 Lakeside ASC Affiliate Standing

Motion carries (7-0-1) - Approve: Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: McCabe. Absent: Byrne.

Motion by Wesen to not allow Lakeside ASC to sanction any event until all show results and appropriate fees are submitted to the ASCA Business Office. Second by Larson.

Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 4:05 pm to 4:15 pm. The Board met to deliberate on a request for conflict resolution.

Motion by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm. Second by Creelman.

ASCA Nationals Affiliate Meeting

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), Director-elect Ann McCabe, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Affiliate Club Members in attendance: Donna Armstrong, Gail Elliott, Susan Harris, Betsy Coleman, Ann DeChant, Susan Whitten, Robbi Norman, Sheila Freeman, Ann Post, Diana Curl, Betty Jaco, Jerry Aufox, Sandy Hawkins, Joy Hall, and Susan Severns.

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

Summary of the 2020 Affiliate Meeting

The Executive Secretary read a summary of the minutes from last year's affiliate meeting, held virtually.

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 vital everyone helping at an ASCA event is familiar with these rules and prepared to follow/enforce them.

Most importantly, when an incident occurs it must be dealt with immediately - in some cases the show should be stopped to address. If someone requests a conflict resolution, the form must be provided to them immediately. The results of the investigation into the incident must be provided to the ASCA Business Office with the show results, regardless of the outcome. There are repercussions for affiliates that do not follow these rules.

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.

Sanctioning Deadline

From June 2020 to June 2021, the Business Office was processing sanctioning requests up to 30-days before an event. We know this was helpful to affiliates during a time of changing requirements and expectations and we were glad to see so many taking advantage. This was always meant to be a temporary measure, however, and the deadline increased to 45-days in June and back to 60-days on November 1.

We ask that Affiliates continue to review the premium, courses, and paperwork very carefully before sending them to the Business Office. Affiliates should include contact persons who will be prompt in responding to inquiries from the Business Office or course reviewers. If there are errors or delays, it will slow down the time it takes to sanction and publish on the event calendar. While sanctioning is pending, affiliates are encouraged to add their event to the unofficial ASCA event calendar.

Any affiliates in areas still affected by COVID-19 related restrictions may contact the Board for special consideration.

Old and/or New Business

Some people asked about how the judge directory is updated and the process followed for removing judges from the directory - either due to death or not meeting program requirements. It was suggested a postcard be sent to a judge that is reportedly not judging any longer to determine their intentions. Notice should also be sent to the judge when they are removed from the directory and include possible ways to remedy.

We talked briefly about the computer system rebuild and how it will affect submission of show results. Currently 85% of the Business Office processes are done manually and we are trying to flip that percentage.

Susan Harris suggested the conformation show paperwork be revised/updated. Suggestions should be shared with the Conformation Committee.

Ms. Harris also brought up the regions in California for hosting affiliate events. There are currently three, but there has been a push to change to two regions, which would better serve the affiliates there.

It was requested that the membership be able to access a list of judges that judge in multiple programs. In the current judge directory, it lists the last date a judge was hired, but for judges that judge in multiple programs, it does not specify for which program. There were some concerns about a judge judging frequently in one program but not in another and those hiring them not being aware of that.

Motion by Judy Boone to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Second by Donna Armstrong.

ASCA Nationals Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken,

Director Jean Roberts (via phone), Director-elect Ann McCabe, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, and Office Manager Ray Fryar.

List of members in attendance is unavailable.

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and it was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

President Busquets welcomed all members in attendance and thanked them for coming to the meeting. She also introduced the Board of Directors and staff present.

Thank you to outgoing director Judy Boone for her three years of service on the Board. Ms. Boone has been a longtime supporter of ASCA, and she brought a valued perspective to the Board. We are so grateful for the time she has been able to give to ASCA.

Welcome to incoming director Ann McCabe. This will be Ms. McCabe's first time on the Board. She is a strong supporter of ASCA's programs and has been a major contributor on ASCA's committees. She is also an educator, and we look forward to having her expertise on the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wesen provided the public report to the membership. She reminded the membership that monthly reports are now available on the member's only section of the ASCA Website, thanks to the efforts of the previous treasurer, Mr. Warren Evans. Ms. Wesen also had the most recent (2019) audit available for the membership to review.

Summary of the 2020 Membership Meeting

The Executive Secretary read a summary of the minutes from last year's membership meeting, held virtually.

System Liaison's Report

System Liaison Larson reported on the status of the database migration/system upgrade project ongoing with Inventive since 6/15/2021. Thank you to the ASCA team that has made this project possible - Maarten Walter, Maureen Loughney, and Ray Fryar. As well as thanks to the subject matter experts and testers that have volunteered their time and involvement in this project. The ASCA team meets daily with the Inventive team and throughout the week there are also sprint planning and demo meetings with Inventive, and meetings as needed with experts and testers. This project is going smoothly only because of the teams' diligence, and we are so grateful to those on our side who have stepped up to help.

ASCA's database has been successfully migrated to the cloud (Azure). The project itself not only consists of the migration but a complete rebuild. Much of this sets the foundation for future upgrades that will enhance the user experience and automate much of the workflow that is now being done manually by the Business Office.

At this point the project is approximately fifty percent complete. Production rollout planning will begin sometime in November and the plan is to have a phased rollout to receive real world feedback. Also, since the website portal will have a brand-new look and new user options, our Webmaster Heidi Mobley will be creating and publishing tutorial videos on the ASCA YouTube channel.

Random Draw of 2023 Stockdog Finals Judges

Per 24.7.4 Drawing for Selection in the Stockdog Rules, the Board will perform a random draw of all Stockdog Judges who satisfy the qualifications (listed in 22.7.2). The random draw will be done at the General

Membership Meeting held at the Nationals in full view of any who wish to attend the meeting. The first nine names will be supplied to the Host Club in no order to choose and hire three judges for Stockdog Finals.

1. David Clayton
2. Maarten Walter
3. Gail Winnick
4. John Knepper

Committee Reports

ARPH - Jean Inman gave the report on behalf of the Aussie Rescue and Placement Helpline. ARPH continues to take pride in being a premier nationwide breed rescue for Australian Shepherds in need. Their processes and policies ensure that dogs in their program are given proper veterinary care, thorough evaluations, and foster home experiences which help get them placed with the most suitable adopters.

Thanks to contributions from supporters, fundraisers, and donors ARPH continues to be financially solvent, despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. From January 2021 through October 25th, 2021, ARPH took in seventy-six dogs - sixty-four have been adopted! They continue to focus on the future and how they can best serve the breed and support the volunteers that work tirelessly on ARPH's behalf.

ARPH Board of Directors: Pam Leach, Linda Gonschior, Micki Handte, Kay Marks, Pat Dwyer, and Crystal Aguilar.

Agility - Nicole Watts gave the report on behalf of the Agility Committee. The COVID-19 pandemic caused many agility trials to be cancelled for much of the Finals year from 6/1/20 to 5/31/21. Due to that fact, agility suffered huge losses in trials and titles compared to last year. There were 107 less trials offered in 2021 and there were 1009 less dogs competing. There were also a lot less dogs earning titles over the past year. Aussies earned 647 less titles in 2021 than they did in 2020. Other breeds earned 604 less titles in 2021 than they did in 2020.

Ms. Watts provided a rundown of the recommendations made by the Agility Committee during the last year. Some of which were to create an all-breed invitational championship (effective pending computer system programming), lower the age requirement for ACE Senior dogs to seven, and allow bitches in season to run at pre/post trials at Nationals.

Committee Members: Chet Katwyk, Sandra Katzen, Sherry Butler, Diana Curl, Nicole Watts, Claudia Yearsley, Jan Niblock (Chair), Andrea Hoffmann, Michael Kurdzo, Heather Tyler, Donalee McElrath, and Natascha Wagenaar.

Conformation - Betty Jaco gave the report on behalf of the Conformation Committee. The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge for ASCA's conformation program. Some areas were able to hold events under restrictions and some areas were not able to offer any events. However, the difference in numbers between the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 show years are not as significant as we expected. There were 495 shows in 2019/2020 and 470 shows in 2020/2021. In 2019/2020 there were 692 total dogs competing, 146 new intact champions, and 21 new altered champions. In 2020/2021 there were 659 total dogs competing, 156 new intact champions, and 22 new altered champions. This past year, the Board also approved a program allowing for crisis judges to be used when there is a crisis affecting travel. This was a great help to our European affiliates who were unable to fly in judges from the United States, as is typical.

An upcoming project from the committee is the illustrated Breed Standard to be used for educational purposes for judges, breeders, exhibitors, and anyone who is interested. ASCA Senior Breeder Judge and artist Shelly Hollen will be creating the drawings.

Committee Members: Debbie Martin, Mary Hellmeister (Chair), Brandy Greenhagen, Joyce Charron, Ann DeChant, Betty Jaco, Gail Karamalegos, David Clayton, Peter Kontos, and Myrjam Langen.

Dock Jumping - Chair Heidi Mobley gave the report on behalf of the Dock Jumping Committee. There are currently 270 dogs competing in the program and more than 190 titles have been issued since the program's inception. The committee is working hard to find more pools for ASCA members to bring their dogs to jump.

Committee Members: Alexi Staples, Warene Waters, Kristina Churchill, Jen Bunker, Tina Lass, Heidi Mobley (Chair), Pam Smith, Jennifer Bertrand, Sandra Czarny, Renee St. Jacques.

HOF - There was no report from the Hall of Fame Committee.

Committee Members: Lynda Peppel, Kristina Churchill (Chair), Melissa Borde, Ann DeChant, Dorothy Montano, Laura Gibson, Rachel Vest, Lori Fausett.

History - Chair Ann DeChant gave the report on behalf of the History Committee. This past year some of the committee members were working on the development of the Ernest Hartnagle Memorial Icon Award. They also recommended Maarten Walter for the 2021 ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award. The committee would like to encourage new members to join - "you don't have to be old; you just have to be interested in ASCA history!"

Committee Members: Sunday Miles, Robbi Norman, Ann DeChant (Chair), Jeanne Joy Hartnagle, Cindy King, and Dorien Vogelaar.

Junior - Chair Andrea Bair gave the report on behalf of the Junior Committee. This year the committee implemented a new junior judge approval process. They also made some changes to the junior stockdog program, which was the first step in getting a 500 Club for that program. Following trial feedback, they will reevaluate and see what adjustments can be made. They are working on recognition for agility juniors, too.

During the Nationals this year, the committee hosted a junior scavenger hunt and about thirty juniors took part. The juniors were sent to stations (stock arena, dock jumping pool, wash racks, etc.) and had to perform tasks or answer questions relevant to the subject at each station. The hunt ended at the "Junior Selfie Station" with a goodie bag of fun donated items. This was a great change from the typical handling seminar each year.

Committee Members: Bryn Elliott, Andrea Bair (Chair), Susan Harris, Donalyn Shock, Shelby Shank, Bailey Crader, Soren Smail, Mallori Bryan, Bayley Williams, Debra St. Jacques, and Svenja Hagedorn.

Legislative - There was no report from the Legislative Committee.

Committee Members: Darcy Gardiner, Sunday Miles, Jay Kiper, Susan Beals (Chair).

MVA - There was no report from the Most Versatile Aussie Committee.

Committee Members: Curt Uritz, Janet Colby (Chair), Sandra Hawkins, Renee Watson, Andrea Hoffmann, Lori Fausett.

Nationals Advisory - Chair Laura Gibson gave the report on behalf of the Nationals Advisory Committee. The committee is working on a handbook for the Nationals Committee members. They have also been tasked with finding a suitable site for the Nationals located east of the Mississippi. Please contact the committee with any site suggestions and they will investigate.

Committee Members: Denise Creelman, Laura Gibson (Chair), and Renee Watson.

Obedience - Chair Betsy Coleman gave the report on behalf of the Obedience Committee. During show year 2020/2021 there were 145 obedience trials. There were 407 total dogs competing. Aussies earned 38 BN titles, 49 CD titles, 16 CDX titles, 4 ODX titles, 2 OTCH titles, 1 OTCH-O title, 1 OTCH-2 title, 1 OTCH-3 title, 1 OTCH-7 title, 1 OTCH-8 title, 1 OTCH-9 title, 5 UD titles, 1 UDX title, and 1 UDX-3 title. Other breeds earned 64 total new titles. There were also 79 entries in the virtual obedience program with 25 new titles.

This past year the committee made several recommendations to the Board some of which include restrictions for bitches in season, a process for using a back-up judge, and replacing human posts in the figure 8 exercise with tall cones. The committee is currently working on a Graduate Open class. They plan to address judge education, streamline approval of judges from other registries/organizations, and explore ways to increase the number of ASCA obedience judges.

Committee Members: Hilary Hines, Karen Gray, Laurie Rubin, Betsy Coleman (Chair), Marilyn Cherry (Co-Chair), Nita Gandara, Joyce Charron, Beth MacLehose, Sandy Walroth, Pat Pierce, and Günter Geisel.

Rally - Chair Karen Black gave the report on behalf of the Rally Committee. Despite the challenges to host trials and compete this past year, we were able to have a full complement of 20 Rally Finalists this year. At this year's Nationals, the Rally Committee presented a Rally Education Seminar open to judges, exhibitors, and anyone interested in ASCA Rally. There was great participation and discussion about scoring and frequently misperformed and mis-scored exercises with judges and exhibitors in attendance.

Since June 2020 there has been 1 judge move from provisional to regular, 1 judge move to senior rally judge and 6 new provisional judges. There are currently several other judge applicants at varying stages of the application process. The committee is aware the program is still in need of judges in many areas of the country, as well as in Canada and in Europe. If you are interested in becoming an ASCA Rally Judge, Chapter 16 of the Rally Rulebook outlines the requirements. Between June 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021, there were 212 Rally trials with 734 dogs competing. During that trial period, ASCA awarded 13 Rally Trial Championships to Aussies and 2 to other breeds. There were 3 RTCH-2s, 6 RTCH-3s, and 2 RTCH-7s. In total there were 763 titles awarded.

New rally signs were added in 2018 and the committee is interested in adding a few more signs that follow ASCA's philosophy for safe, flowing courses with signs based on obedience doodling exercises. If you have any suggestions for potential exercises that would fit in well with the ASCA Rally Program, please send your ideas to the ASCA Rally Chair or an ASCA Rally Committee member for consideration.

Committee Members: Sue Graham, Diana Curl, Joan Skinner, Etta Wertz, Cynthia Hokes, Corinne Shanks, Karen Black (Chair), Terri Rein, Leah Swatko, Kathryn Meyer, and Günter Geisel.

Scent Search - Chair Donna Armstrong gave the report on behalf of the Scent Search Committee. They held an educational seminar during this Nationals with great turnout. The Board will be reviewing a preliminary program in 2022.

Committee Members: Kiddy Christie, Sandra Tung, Noel Ritter, Donna Armstrong (Chair), Sheigh Crabtree, Leslie Fassio, Bev Peabody, Sandy Thompson, Jacquelyn Kobierecki, Deborah Divich, Becky Barnes, Pam Miller, Kathi Filar, and Kathryn Meyer.

Stockdog - Chair Dan Sanderson gave the report on behalf of the Stockdog Committee. Mr. Sanderson spoke about the committee's recommendations to the Board in an effort to save money in putting on the Stockdog Finals and the proposals the Board acted on. Despite the challenges of the 2020/2021 trial year, the number of trials held is up from 2019/2020. Since stockdog trials are already outside, it was easy to continue hosting trials

while social distancing. Mr. Sanderson suggested the Board investigate why so few judges submitted their names to judge the 2023 Stockdog Finals.

Committee Members: Nate Bake, Terri Jones, Cathy Lowe, Dan Sanderson (Chair), Jacqueline Tinker, Dennis Witham, Matteo Campedelli, Deb Conroy (Judge), Andrea Hoffmann (Judge), and Jamie Burns (Judge).

Tracking - Jan Wesen gave the report on behalf of the Tracking Committee. This past year the first Urban Tracking Dog X title was offered in Washington. This was also the first year with the Beginner Tracking program. The whole tracking program is growing and attracting new participants. Last year there were 5 TD titles and 3 Master Tracker titles earned.

Committee Members: Lisa Klein, Maia Halvorsen, Beth MacLehose, Joyce Charron, Sandra Hawkins, Jacqueline Tinker (Chair), Laurie Shuren, and Marja Teegelbeckers.

Random Draw of 2023 Nationals Conformation Show Judges

Per 8.4.3 Draw, the Board will perform a random draw of all judges who satisfy the qualifications. The random draw will be done at the General Membership Meeting held at the Nationals in full view of any who wish to attend the meeting. Fifteen Senior Breeder Judge names and five Approved Breeder Judge names will be drawn. The list will be supplied to the National Specialty Committee to choose from.

Approved Breeder Judges:

1. Brandy Greenhagen

Senior Breeder Judges:

1. Karen Roesner
2. Laura Diebold
3. Teana Meadors
4. Kathi Ross Nash
5. Glenda Stephenson
6. Janet Kelly
7. Kristina Churchill
8. Rhonda Silveira
9. Joni Monney-McKeown
10. Lori Acierto
11. Sheila Polk
12. Susan Landry Whiticar
13. Debbie Reneau
14. Cynthia Taylor
15. Regina Lee Bryant

Old and/or New Business

Dan Sanderson asked if the Board is considering having the Nationals at one centrally located site. The Nationals Advisory Committee is looking at alternative sites for the rotation and depending on what they find, the Board could consider a rotation of up to three sites or one permanent. If there is ever a permanent site for the ASCA Nationals, it will be the result of a well-researched decision process.

Ray Fryar announced that one of our longtime members, Kaye Harris of Crown Point, has passed. Her contributions to the breed cannot be understated. She will be deeply missed.

Carol Gerken thanked the Hall of Fame Committee for their work on creating a Stockdog Kennel of Excellence award to recognize those kennels breeding to preserve working ability in our breed.

Motion by Judy Boone to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Second by Heidi Mobley.

Motions via Email

Director Recommendations

EM.21.13 ASCA Website Host

Motion ***carries*** (8-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen.
Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: Gerken.

Motion by Roberts that ASCA move the ASCA website from the current host to SiteGround. Second by Creelman.

Comments/Rationale: The current host no longer supports our website.

Affected: Webmaster.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

EM.21.14 ASCA Website Programmer

Motion ***carries*** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen.
Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Roberts that ASCA accept Frank Butera's bid for website programming and maintenance. Second by Creelman.

Comments/Rationale: Once we move the website, ASCA will need a programmer.

Affected: Webmaster.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Respectfully submitted by

Kalla E. Jaco

Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.