



## THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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# ASCA Executive Secretary's Report November 2022

Announcements	
<p>ASCA's GoFundMe: <a href="https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-pay-off-ASCAs-new-computer-system">https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-pay-off-ASCAs-new-computer-system</a></p> <p>Donation Form: <a href="https://asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ASCA-Donor-form.pdf">https://asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ASCA-Donor-form.pdf</a></p> <p>If you are interested in volunteering to help with the 2024 Nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska, please contact Denise Creelman.</p> <p>Rulebooks and governing documents ordered from the Business Office will now cost \$10 per document (including shipping).</p> <p><b>2023 Nationals Judge Change -</b> Karen Roesner will replace Sheila Polk as the intact bitches judge</p>	<p><b>New Committee Members -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jean Roberts - History Committee</li><li>• Megan Sims Kennedy - Junior Committee</li><li>• Rachel Vest - Nationals Advisory Committee</li></ul> <p><b>New Judges -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provisional Rally Judge Melanie Licciardi (Germany)</li><li>• Provisional Rally Judge Andrea Hoffmann (Tennessee)</li><li>• Senior Rally Judge Melissa Borde (Wisconsin)</li><li>• Senior Breeder Judge Susan Winters (Florida)</li><li>• Provisional Breeder Judge Mary Detor (New York)</li><li>• Provisional Breeder Judge Star Mathis (New Mexico)</li><li>• Provisional Junior Judge Shelby McDaniel (New Mexico)</li></ul>

## ASCA Affiliate Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, in Bryan, Texas, at the ASCA National Specialty.

**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-elect Dawna Sims, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, Sheila Freeman (Love and Laughter Dogs ASC), Susan Severns (ASC of Idaho), Sherry Butler (Prescott ASC), Jerry Aufox (Rock River Valley ASC), Susan Whiten (Rocky Branch Working ASC), Sue Collins (ASC of Idaho), Rebecca Chandler (Mesquite ASC), Diana Curl (PASC), Ann DeChant (ASC of Michigan), Theresa Casselman, and Susan Harris (Delta ASF).

**Absent:** Director Jean Roberts.

**President Busquets called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.**

## Summary of Last Year's Minutes

The Executive Secretary read a summary of the minutes of the 2021 Affiliate Meeting that was held in Bryan, Texas.

## **Dog Aggression Rules and Conflict Resolution Protocol**

This is a recurring topic for each Affiliate Meeting to go over ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules and 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. Affiliates must also conduct investigations in circumstances where the judge has disqualified a dog for aggression. This provides additional documentation to support the judge's decision.

The results of the investigation into the incident (dog aggression or conflict) with all documentation collected 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 because it's paramount that the Board have all information necessary to either validate or reverse the affiliate's decision.

Ann DeChant asked how we get this information out to the affiliates that don't have representatives at this meeting. She suggested something be published in the Aussie Times every few issues. A flow chart for how to investigate an incident could be included with the show paperwork the office provides to affiliates.

Jerry Aufox asked what to do in cases where the complaint is filed at the end of the event and the people who would be involved in a hearing have already left the grounds. The affiliate representatives should communicate via email about it and schedule a virtual meeting to address it as soon as possible.

Susan Harris suggested that affiliates cover this every few years as part of their yearly education requirement. It's a great way to get hands-on experience with the processes and can be done as part of a general discussion of affiliate responsibilities for an event.

McCabe noted that at the beginning of each show/trial (during the briefing, when applicable) exhibitors can be reminded about the proper way to file a complaint and how the affiliate will address conflicts or aggression incidents.

Gann stressed the importance of Show Coordinators going over these rules with the Show Secretaries. Sometimes there is a different Show Secretary for each show/trial in a weekend event, so it's paramount that each person is aware of their responsibilities. Susan Harris noted her club requires the Show Coordinator to mentor new Show Secretaries and stay on-site with them during their first show/trial. Gann suggested changing the rules, so the Show Coordinator is required to be on-site in addition to the Show Secretary in case there are any issues.

## **Judge Evaluations**

Affiliates receive judge evaluation forms with the paperwork for each event. These are filled out by the affiliate regarding the judge's performance and returned to the Business Office. They are then shared with the Executive Secretary (and, in the case of agility, with a representative from the Agility Committee) to be logged in a spreadsheet. Whenever there is an issue that requires education for the judge, the evaluation is shared with the appropriate program committee, and the chair is asked to reach out to the judge to offer guidance. Please be aware that the evaluations are not the place to point out any rule violations or conflicts involving the judge – those should be addressed by the Conflict Resolution Protocol.

There is also a form on the website for a judge to write feedback on their experience with the affiliate that hired them. These are shared with the Executive Secretary in the same manner.

## **Sanctioning Deadline**

In November 2021, the sanctioning deadline returned to 60 days before an event. The timeframe was lessened during worldwide COVID-19 restrictions, but it has now gone back to what it was before. The Board wanted to remind affiliates of this since there have been some cases where they didn't know and incurred massive late fees.

Susan Harris commented that she preferred when the deadline was 45 days but understood why 60 days is necessary for the Business Office. She said her affiliate sometimes hosts events two months apart from each other and it's hard to think about the latter event when they are planning for the former.

Jerry Aufox asked if the sanctioning paperwork will be paperless in the future. He noted that would likely help the office and may facilitate a return to 45 days.

Ann DeChant said the new event calendar is great and allows affiliates to list pending events far in advance so people can plan.

Robbi Norman brought up an issue her affiliate had with canceling a sanctioned Farm Trial because their proposed courses didn't get reviewed in time by the Stockdog Committee, which proved to be a hardship for the club. She asked what happens with events that must have courses reviewed.

McCabe noted that there are timelines for committees to follow regarding course review. Gann said that he would reach out to the Stockdog Committee about this.

Susan Whiten said that her affiliate does not always get a response about their sanctioning request unless they call the office to speak with someone. Byrne said that she would work on a motion to require acknowledgment of sanctioning approval to affiliates from the office.

The Board expects that moving to online sanctioning of events will help cut down on many of these issues.

## **Event Paperwork**

The Board wanted to use this opportunity to remind affiliates to take care to fill everything out as required before, during, and after an event. This helps to ensure that the Business Office records accurate results as quickly as possible.

Susan Harris asked if the judges' books could be revised to be more consistent. McCabe said that they will be revised and once we've gone through the stack that has already been printed, we will transition to using the revised judges' books.

Susan Harris requested that a column or page be added for veterans since you currently must add it to the page yourself.

McCabe noted that you can also use pre-printed labels with the show information and stick them over the top to save your hands from having to write the same information over and over.

## **Going Paperless**

The Board talked about their plans for going paperless at the Business Office in the upcoming year. The Assistant Office Manager Sarah Jackson has been instrumental in this process. The cost of postage has really been hurting ASCA and this is a necessary cost-saving measure. It also fits with ASCA's current efforts to modernize the office.

The agility program was mostly already paperless, so that was an easy transition. Ms. Jackson is currently working on the rally program and expects that to be completed in December. We plan to transition another program in January.

Susan Harris asked how this will work for affiliates.

Affiliates will be emailed their set of paperwork and judges will be emailed their set. Affiliates can print the paperwork themselves (either by their own printer or through a printing shop like Staples or Office Depot). After an event, the affiliate can scan (or take a picture) of the results and email them back to the office. Regarding the copy that is to be posted – the Board plans to make an administrative change to the rules allowing the results to be posted however the affiliate sees fit (for example, at the show or posted to the affiliate's Facebook page).

Everyone was very supportive of the necessary change of business.

## **Old Business**

No old business was brought forward for discussion.

## **New Business**

Robbi Norman asked about the Scent Search program. This is a developing program in ASCA, but it cannot be implemented until we are able to program it in the new system. In the meantime, non-sanctioned matches can be held by affiliates and the information about that is on the ASCA website: <https://asca.org/competitive-programs/scent-search/>

## **Announcements**

Susan Harris thanked the Board of Directors for having her judge Conformation Finals earlier in the day. It was noted that this year the results for the Conformation Finals were processed faster than ever before. The Excel spreadsheet was very successful, and Byrne said that she is going to work on a template for it to be used going forward.

Thank you to all the affiliate members who were in attendance!

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

## **ASCA Membership Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, in Bryan, Texas, at the ASCA National Specialty.

**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, Director-elect Dawna Sims, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, Office Manager Ray Fryar, Webmaster Heidi Mobley, Rebecca Gizmo, Sheila Freeman, Desirae Erwin, Traci Daly, Stanley Creelman, Krissy Chauvin, Alyssa Black, Nate Bake, Stephanie Bake, Lindsey Heins, Kay Herrington, Sue Kelly, Robbi Norman, Megan Sims Kennedy, Claudia Yearsley, Maarten Walter, Judy Boone, Sherry Butler, Ann DeChant, Nancy Hawley, Jean Inman, Terri Morgan, Ann Post, Faith Salzgeber, Roger Salzgeber, Corinne Shanks, Claire Steffens, Elizabeth Stibley, Terry Thomascik, Rachel Vest, Melinda Vinson, Susan Whiten, Vickie Barley, Karen Black, Donna Burdick, Bruce Caldwell,

Wendy Cerilli, Laura Clayton, Betsy Coleman, Aubrie Dahle, Karen Dahle, Juliet Gentile, Laura Gibson, Susan Graham, Carol Graves, Brandy Greenhagen, Michael Greenhagen, Catherine Kenny, James Kenny, Mary Kenny, Scott Mobley, Ron Niemzyk, Cassie Parker, Devona Pierce, Pamela Smith, Sara Swanson, Glenda Teaff, Larry Teaff, Jacqueline Tinker, Renee Watson, Dawn Williams, and Madison Williams.

**Absent:** None.

**President Busquets called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.** She introduced the ASCA Board and staff present at the meeting.

## Summary of Last Year's Minutes

The Executive Secretary read a summary of the minutes of the 2021 Membership Meeting that was held in Bryan, Texas.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wesen gave an update on ASCA's financial status. A copy of the 2021 audit was brought for members to review. The auditors noted that no transactions were entered into by the Club during the year for which there was a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus and that all significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period. The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear. In their Management Letter, the auditors identified the following deficiencies in the Club's internal control to be material weaknesses:

- **Financial Statement Preparation** - Management has full responsibility for the financial statements, but the auditors are currently preparing the statements for management. They recommend that ASCA utilize an individual with the requisite knowledge and skill in modified cash basis of accounting to prepare the financial statements.
- **Material Adjusting Journal Entry** – ASCA tracks the activity of the National Specialty Show in an Excel spreadsheet but does not record the activity in its general ledger. They recommend ASCA develops procedures to ensure this activity is recorded in the general ledger and that the records clearly support the financial statements.
- **Uninsured Bank Balances** - They recommend that ASCA periodically monitor its cash balances and, if necessary, take appropriate action to minimize uninsured cash balances at financial institutions.

Net assets for 2021 were \$1,167,461. Sue Graham asked about the net profit. Wesen said that is not provided in this audit but is available in the Profit and Loss reports on the ASCA website. She reminded everyone that the monthly Treasurer's Reports are available on the Member's Only page in the user portal on the ASCA website for members to review.

## System Liaison's Report

The System Liaison updated the membership on the status of the computer system upgrade. The good news is that the portion of the system used by the office is completed and new computers have been installed for the staff to access it. They have gone from using Windows 7 to Windows 11, so please be patient with our staff as they get accustomed.

We are working on having all the Finals standings and merit lists automatically updated on the ASCA website once a week. You can see what this will look like with the new Stockdog Finals Standings on the website: <https://asca.org/stockdog-finals-standings/>

With the rebuild, we have also laid the foundation for future functionality to be programmed. For example, making it possible for affiliates to enter results online at the event will significantly decrease the workload for affiliates and the Business Office and ensure timely results for standings reports. We also intend to have all transactions conducted online.

The ASCA and Inventive teams are currently working on the user portal for members. Our Webmaster will be creating tutorial videos for specific functions in the portal, and they will be uploaded to ASCA's YouTube channel for viewing. The new portal is expected to be rolled out all at once around the end of the year and that will complete the first phase of the project.

Larson thanked Maarten Walter, Maureen Loughney, Ray Fryar, Sarah Jackson, Kalla Jaco, and all the subject matter experts and testers that have given their time and knowledge to this project.

Rachel Vest asked if we were still using ADMS (the old database system at the Business Office). No, we have completely switched over to the new cloud-based system.

Karen Black asked when programs will be able to submit recommendations for additional titling classes. Any new programming will be part of additional phases. Program committees can fill out the title progression template and submit their request for a quote to have it programmed, but we do not have an estimate for when this work could begin. It depends on ASCA's finances.

## **2024 Stockdog Finals Judges**

The Board randomly drew eligible judges for the 2024 Stockdog Finals to be held in Grand Island, Nebraska. There were six judges who submitted their intent, but only five met the qualifications. The names in the order of the draw are:

1. Joan Carrillo
2. Devona Pierce
3. Maxine Schvaneveldt
4. John Knepper
5. Brad Warren

These names are supplied to the 2024 Nationals Committee in no order to choose and hire three judges for the Stockdog Finals.

## **2024 National Conformation Judges**

The Board randomly drew eligible judges for the 2024 National Conformation Show to be held in Grand Island, Nebraska. The names in the order of the draw are:

Breeder Judge

1. DiAnna Williams

Senior Breeder Judge

1. Tina Burks
2. Erick Brickson
3. Kerry Kirtley
4. Kathy Staten
5. Donna wright
6. Lisa bell
7. Cheryl Padgett
8. Heidi Mobley
9. Rhonda Silveira

10. Janet Kelly
11. Lori Atkinson
12. Lori Acierto
13. Nannette Newbury
14. Regina Bryant
15. Ron Moden
16. Gemi Sasson Brickson
17. Patti Wirries
18. Kelli Gaunt
19. Toni Viola Pearson
20. Cheri Preciado

These names are supplied to the 2024 Nationals Committee to choose and hire judges for the Nationals Conformation Show.

## **Committee/Other Reports**

Chairs or appointed representatives gave their annual reports to the membership.

## **AUSSIE RESCUE AND PLACEMENT HELPLINE**

Jean Inman reported on behalf of the Aussie Rescue and Placement Helpline (ARPH). ARPH is the official rescue group of ASCA, and their volunteers work tirelessly to save dogs from all sorts of unfortunate situations in which they have landed. Thanks to the support of ARPH's donors, the organization has been able to help rehabilitate dogs and find them their forever homes. Last year, ARPH accepted 84 Aussies into their program and 79 were placed in loving homes. They are always seeking volunteers for fostering and hands-on work with the dogs, but are also in need of people with technical skills to assist with their website and database, legal expertise, financial expertise, marketing, etc. They hope you'll consider volunteering.

## **AGILITY**

The Agility Committee's Liaison, Susan Byrne, gave the report on behalf of the Chair, Jan Niblock. There were some notable increases in participation in the program during the last year. In 2021 there were 294 trials with 1284 dogs competing and in 2022 there were 381 trials with 2056 dogs competing. In 2021 there were 1251 titles earned by Aussies and in 2022 there were 2617 titles earned. In 2021 there were 641 titles earned by other breeds and in 2022 there were 1277 titles earned. The committee worked on many projects during the last year, including clarifying the combining of points from different divisions for titles, updates to course regulations, increasing the number of ATCH and ACE titles beyond twenty, and clarifying the transferring of points between the championship and ACE programs. They also created a subcommittee of three non-judges to design the agility judge's examination and new procedures for them to follow in designing the exam. This past year there were five new judges (three of which are from Europe), one new apprentice supervisor judge, and one new apprentice judge.

## **CONFORMATION**

The Conformation Committee's Chair, Brandy Greenhagen, gave the report. The committee doubled its membership in the past year and has been very busy. Some projects they have worked on include updating the judge's test to reflect current conformation rules, clarifying rules that were unclear, and developing a process for tabulating the Conformation Finals scores.

Shelly Hollen has also created drawings for an Illustrated Breed Standard that the committee will finalize soon. The committee has been working on adding awards for select dogs and bitches and changing the way points are earned for the Supreme Conformation Champion program, but these changes will need to wait until the funds have been raised to pay for programming them into the new system. Participation numbers for the 2021-2022 show year were up significantly from the previous year. There were 202 new Champions and 27 new Altered Champions.

Ron Niemzyk asked if Supreme Conformation Champion titles were already being awarded. Maarten Walter is preparing a report that will identify which dogs have earned the title without there needing to be any programming, but that hasn't been completed yet. No titles have been issued for this program yet. Mr. Niemzyk pointed out that some of this year's Conformation Finals dogs had the SCCH title included in their registered name that was announced. Gann said that should not have happened.

Robbi Norman asked if the awards for select dogs and bitches will be called the same as they are in AKC. Ms. Greenhagen said that they would be. We already use common terms like Best of Breed and Winners Dog/Bitch, so this is no different. She clarified that these will be optional awards and will be given in addition to the premier awards.

## **DOCK JUMPING**

The Dock Jumping Committee's Chair, Heidi Mobley, gave the report. The number of trials held by ASCA affiliates has doubled in the last year. ASCA is still partnered with Ultimate Air Dog and the committee will be talking with the Board about continuing that relationship. They are investigating ways to increase access to pools for our affiliates and members across the country. In 2021 there were 66 new titles earned and there have been 103 titles earned so far in 2022. Results are still being processed manually at the Business Office, but it's much easier with the new system.

## **HALL OF FAME**

No report.

## **HISTORY**

The History Committee's Liaison, Jean Roberts, gave the report on behalf of the Chair, Cindy King. The committee is working on ways to increase interest in ASCA's history. They have started to include historical questions and old photos in their Aussie Times reports. They have also developed a form for people to make nominations for the ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award which will be available on the website soon. The committee welcomes any suggestions from the membership regarding article topics or featured photos. They are also seeking active members to join the team.

## **JUNIOR**

The Junior Committee's Liaison, Ann McCabe, gave the report on behalf of the Chair, Shelby Shank. There were five new members added to the committee in the last year and they worked on several recommendations including new ring procedures for the Pee Wee and Sub Junior classes, updates to the end-of-year overall awards, and some housekeeping. They also developed an allocation chart for how to spend the donations made to the junior program. It has been broken down into the following: a scholarship fund, high-point awards, Nationals seminars,



and a reserve. They were excited that this will be the first year the fund will be used for high-point awards. The committee is currently working on developing a merit program for juniors in agility and then they will be looking at ways to implement a 500 Club for juniors in all programs.

Sue Graham asked if the Agility Committee would be involved in a merit program for agility juniors. McCabe answered that it will be a collaboration between the two committees and will be like merit awards for other performance programs. Ms. Graham stressed the importance of having someone knowledgeable about agility be included in the development process.

## **LEGISLATIVE**

The Junior Committee's Liaison, Jean Roberts, gave the report on behalf of the Chair, Susan Beals. This was a quiet year for the committee, in part because they are very small. If there is something happening legislatively in your state or even in your local area that you think it would be beneficial for ASCA to weigh in on, please let the committee know, preferably with enough lead time so that they can research and write a well-formulated position paper. The committee monitors legislation at the federal level and at the individual states of committee members, but most anti-pet animal legislation happens at the state level or even lower. They need the help of the general membership to address those.

## **MOST VERSATILE AUSSIE/JUNIOR**

The Most Versatile Committee's Chair, Renee Watson, gave the report. There were 72 teams entered in MVA last year and only 41 teams this year. The committee is small but active. Ms. Watson encouraged those with experience in MVA to join and share their ideas for the program. The committee took feedback from the membership about the changes that were made to scoring last year and will use that, along with data from the competition, to make any necessary updates. The Most Versatile Junior scoring is still done the old way and the committee would like to work with the Junior Committee to update that, too.

## **NATIONALS ADVISORY**

The Nationals Advisory Committee's Chair, Laura Gibson, gave the report. The committee's priority is finding a site for the 2026 Nationals. They will be providing the Board with information on all proposed sites so they can decide where to go during their 2023 Spring Meeting. The committee is investigating sites in the following locations: Bakersfield, California; Santa Rosa, California; Greeley, Colorado; Perry, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; Springfield, Illinois; Ocala, Florida; Hamburg, New York; and Gillette, Wyoming.

Wendy Cerilli asked if the trend is to stay at the same location for two to three years and then move to another location. Ms. Gibson explained that the Board decided to stay in Texas for three years to develop a consistent process to host the Nationals and then we were offered a financial incentive to stay in Nebraska for two years in a row. So, it has just worked out that way, but it is not a set policy. The Board is going to consider the direction they want to go in with the Nationals sites during their 2023 Spring Meeting.

## **OBEDIENCE**

The Obedience Committee's Chair, Betsy Coleman, gave the report. The committee is jointly chaired by Ms. Coleman and Marilyn Cherry. Three new members were added in the last year. Everyone on the committee brings different perspectives and ideas and works very well together. In the last year, the committee prepared recommendations for the Board including

allowing unrestricted non-regular class entries when trial entries do not fill by the pre-entry deadline, changes to the scoring of Novice stays in Obedience Finals, updates to the fix and go rules, clarifying the hand positions for on lead and off leash heeling, clarifying that classes may not be added after sanctioning for an obedience trial has been approved, updating the requirements for premiums regarding the timing of novice group exercises, and allowing dogs to be entered in Novice C along with any other class since no titles are earned in Novice C. They also developed a new Graduate Open optional titling class, but that cannot go into effect until it is programmed into the new computer system. The committee is currently discussing a motion clarifying dogs that may not compete and updates to the jump height table. The committee welcomes comments and ideas from the general membership about the program.

## **RALLY**

The Rally Committee's Chair, Karen Black, gave the report. Ms. Black thanked Hill Country ASC and Amigos ASC for hosting rally pre-trials this year. Rally exhibitors really benefit from having pre-trials and they can't happen without the support of our affiliates. The committee held an educational event this week and it was well attended with lots of participation. They also had an open house for people to look at potential new signs being considered for implementation in June 2023. They received a lot of great feedback. Ms. Black talked about the impact that COVID-19 had on the number of rally trials held and she was pleased to report that even though there was a decline, the number has mostly returned to what it was pre-pandemic. In June 2022, the committee started conducting pre-trial course reviews. There were some initial kinks, but those have been worked out and things are running smoothly now. There are currently several rally judge applicants and judges at varying stages of the approval process. Judge education was moved to June in odd-numbered years to coincide with the release of the new rulebook instead of having it in January.

## **SCENT SEARCH**

The Scent Search Committee's Liaison, Denise Creelman, gave the report on behalf of the Chair, Donna Armstrong. The program is in development but will not be able to go into effect until it can be programmed into the new computer system. Affiliates can hold non-sanctioned matches in the meantime, though. More information can be found on the ASCA website: <https://asca.org/competitive-programs/scent-search/>

On September 24, 2022, PEN-NY ASC held a "Sniff n Go" match in New York. They used an AKC Tracking and Scent Work judge and offered all four elements. The participants were Aussies, a German Shepherd, a Rat Terrier, a Norwegian Buhund, and two Otterhounds. Handlers had a good time, and some great feedback was brought forward.

The committee has also been soliciting judges and working to educate and train them in ASCA's program so that we are ready to hold trials as soon as possible.

## **STOCKDOG**

The Stockdog Committee's Chair, Jacqueline Tinker, gave the report. There were 493 Stockdog trials held with 1163 dogs competing. There were 494 started titles, 313 open titles, 360 advanced titles, and 43 post-advanced titles earned by Aussies. There were also 63 new Working Trial Champions, 21 WTCH-M titles, and 17 WTCH-X titles. There were 730 titles earned by other breeds as well as 37 WTCH titles, 2 WTCH-M titles, and 1 WTCH-X title. There were 97 farm trials held with 363 dogs competing. There were 434 titles earned by Aussies and

104 titles earned by other breeds. There were 10 ranch trials held with 59 dogs competing. There were 69 titles earned by Aussies and 18 titles earned by other breeds.

Ms. Tinker said that the committee will find out why there were only five judges that responded with their intent to judge the Stockdog Finals in 2024. The committee was initially worried that dropping the number of judges from six to three would keep judges from putting in because it's a lot of pressure.

Pam Smith thanked the committee for removing the mandatory 60-day move-up rule.

## **TRACKING**

The Tracking Committee's Chair, Jacqueline Tinker, gave the report. In the past year, there were 6 tracking trials held with 18 dogs competing. There was 1 MT title, 7 TD titles, 1 TD-II title, 1 TD-III title, 2 TDU titles, and 3 TDX titles earned by Aussies. There was 1 BTD title, 1 MT title, 2 TD titles, and 1 TDX-II title earned by other breeds.

The committee has been working on updating the rules and finding ways to make tests accessible to more exhibitors.

## **Old Business**

No old business was brought forward for discussion.

## **New Business**

Sue Graham brought up the need for in-person education for agility judges. She described a situation from this week that could have been averted with proper education. There is a biennial exam for judges, but that is not enough and there are gaps currently in the education that judges receive. She noted that Karen Black and the Rally Committee have done an exceptional job at judge education and outreach and hoped that the Agility Committee would mirror that. Every other agility organization requires their judges to attend in-person seminars and she thought it was time that ASCA did the same. We could even honor attendance at seminars put on by other organizations or course-building at the Nationals.

The Board agreed that the new liaison to the Agility Committee should encourage them to seriously consider this.

Karen Black explained the process that rally judges go through for education.

Betsy Coleman noted that the Obedience Committee has struggled with the same need for in-person judge education and how to provide it. She commended Ms. Black's work.

Pam Smith agreed with Ms. Graham. She said that she recently attended a three-day training seminar for another organization, and it was a lot of work, but worth it to get the practical experience. She said that members of committees should be active in the program they are representing. Additionally, Ms. Smith thought that ASCA's committee might benefit from having term limits for committee members.

Judy Boone said that there have been people serving on the Agility Committee that did not have ASCA competition experience and that it hurts the program.

Karen Black brought up a current issue with membership on the Rally Committee. It has worked out that a majority of the committee is due for renewal at the same time and that could cause a big disruption. The Executive Secretary offered a solution by having some of those due for renewal one year volunteer to renew early, so the renewals are balanced out.

## Announcements

Denise Creelman is the chair for the 2024 Nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska. She encouraged members to fill out an application to serve on the Nationals Committee in an area they are passionate about. Please reach out to her with any questions.

Robbi Norman asked when they will start seeking affiliates to host pre-shows/trials at the 2024 Nationals. The request will be sent out at the beginning of the year and the draw for affiliates is done during the Board's 2023 Spring Meeting.

Thank you to all the members who were in attendance!

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.**

## ASCA Nationals Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on Sunday, October 30, 2022, in Bryan, Texas, at the ASCA National Specialty.

**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 (joined at 2:35 pm), Director Jean Roberts, Director-elect Dawna Sims, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Busquets called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.**

## 2022 Nationals – On-Site Accident

**2022 Nationals Chair Rachel Vest and 2022 Nationals Stockdog Finals Course Director Larry Teaff joined the meeting at 3:03 pm.**

Ms. Vest and Mr. Teaff updated the Board regarding an accident on the grounds on Friday, October 28 involving Marie Nagano. Ms. Nagano has a contract with ASCA to be the Nationals Stock Handler for sheep. She will no longer be able to do this job, but Ms. Vest thinks it would be fair to pay her \$200 for one day's work plus reimbursement per her contract. Ms. Vest also recommended the two replacement sheep handlers be paid \$150 per day.

**Ms. Vest and Mr. Teaff left the meeting at 3:25 pm.**

## BD.22.125 Payment/Reimbursement to Marie Nagano

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Gann to approve the recommendation from 2022 Nationals Chair Rachel Vest to provide \$200 to Marie Nagano for her services on Friday, October 28. ASCA will also pay for her meals and lodging and will reimburse her for gas receipts to and from Riverside, California, as per her contract. Seconded by Byrne.

If there are any more developments regarding Ms. Nagano's accident the Board will deal with them as they are presented.

## Complaints

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board received three complaints and voted to dismiss them following an investigation.

The Rally Committee was directed to clarify whether the finish is considered a station or not.

## System Upgrade Project

**Computer System WARP-1 Project Lead Maarten Walter and ASCA Office Manager Ray Fryar joined the meeting at 4:00 pm.** Mr. Walter summarized the work that's been done on the project and further explained the reasoning for some of the delays, such as the security issues that needed to be fixed in the old system and staff turnover at Inventive. A few weeks ago, Mr. Walter asked Inventive to re-estimate the remainder of the work. The ADMS portion is completed, and they are working on the portal. He laid out two plans of action for the Board: finish the project with Inventive or halt the project and bring an independent software developer on board to coordinate the handoff and take over what Inventive has been doing.

**Program Rules** – ASCA needs clear rules that can be put into the title progression template for a programmer to understand. We must never deviate from using that document.

**Merit Reports** – The new merit reports are currently being created with Structured Query Language (SQL) and Power BI Report Builder. The new Stockdog Merit list is now available on the website and should provide a much better experience for our members. The code for the old reports was very bad and it could not be changed, so Mr. Walter has been creating the new reports from scratch. These will be automated to update every week. He is also working on creating a report for the Supreme Conformation Championship program.

**Credit Card Transactions** – All of the online credit card transactions in the old portal are being fixed and then new processes will need to be created for the new portal. All paper forms need to remove the space to write in credit card information. There must be a project owner to determine what needs to be done to eliminate the paper forms, find resources, and schedule the transition at the Business Office. Director Byrne previously volunteered to take on this project but there has not been much progress.

**PayPal** – The team is hoping to have this payment option added as part of the current WARP-1.

**WARP-2** – The Board and ASCA team need to have a strategy meeting a few months from now about when to start WARP-2 and what will be included. We can do this without a contractor.

**Support and Maintenance** – ASCA will always need to have a company or individual to help support and maintain the system. Every 3-5 years the system should be evaluated for any necessary updates, so we are never in this situation again.

**Mr. Walter left the meeting at 5:10 pm.**

## Business Office Report

The Office Manager reported that the Business Office now has new computers, and they are connected to the new system. He asked for everyone's patience as the staff gets accustomed to using Windows 11 after being on Windows 7 for so long. The staff was involved in testing the new system, so they are familiar with how it works, but there will still be a learning curve.

He noted that the Assistant Manager from the office will be attending the Nationals on Tuesday or Wednesday and other staff will attend when possible.

**Mr. Fryar left the meeting at 5:18 pm.**

## Legal Report

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. Mr. Schleicher shared a few updates with the Board regarding pending legal issues.

He has been researching the impact of relocating ASCA's legal home base (state of incorporation) from Washington to Texas and plans to consult with ASCA's new accountant. If the state of incorporation is not changed, ASCA will need to review its bylaws to ensure compliance with the new Washington nonprofit laws.

As of January 1, 2022, new animal welfare regulations went into effect in Germany and several members have contacted ASCA regarding our position. He will draft a statement from ASCA that can be placed on the ASCA website and shared with members.

He has also been working on an employee handbook and plans to have a draft to share with the Board soon for review and comment.

**Mr. Schleicher left the meeting at 5:34 pm.**

## 2022 Nationals – Replacement Conformation Judge

The 2022 Nationals Conformation Chair, Gail Karamalegos, asked the Board to approve Andrea Torres as the replacement judge for the intact bitch classes at the 2022 Nationals Conformation Show. The scheduled judge, Kelly Sweeney was ill and not able to attend. Ms. Torres was selected in accordance with the substitute judge procedures in the Conformation Rules.

### **BD.22.127 Replacement Judge for 2022 Nationals Conformation Show (Intact Bitches)**

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Gann to approve Andrea Torres to replace Kelly Sweeney as the judge of intact bitches at the 2022 Nationals Conformation Show. Seconded by Wesen.

**The meeting was postponed from 5:36 pm until Monday, October 31, 2022, at 3:00 pm.**

**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 (joined at 3:29 pm), Director Jean Roberts, Director-elect Dawna Sims, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Busquets called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.**

## Meeting with Rally Committee

**Rally Committee Chair Karen Black and Member Corinne Shanks joined the meeting at 3:05 pm.** They updated the Board on some current issues in front of the committee.

**Pre-Trial Rally Course Review** – This was implemented with trials starting June 1, 2022, to coincide with the new show year. There was a rocky start, but things are running smoothly now. With the addition of two new reviewers, there are now seven in total. In cases where a judge and reviewer pair are not working well together, the Chair may reassign the judge to a new

reviewer. If a course has been approved following review, but it doesn't work once the judge gets to the trial site, the judge can make the necessary changes and mark them on the copy that goes to the Business Office.

**Judge Education** – Recently, judge education was moved from January to June in odd years, to coincide with the new rulebook issue. This allows education to be more relevant to the current rules. There are 2-3 new judge applicants currently in process.

**New Signs Presentation** – Last night, the Rally Committee presented potential new signs for 2023 and it was a big hit. They received a lot of great feedback from those in attendance that they plan to incorporate. They hope to give exhibitors more fun exercises to train for.

**Rally Finals** – Invitations were sent to the top 20 dogs and proposed invitations to the next 20 alternates, but only 14 returned entries. In an effort to get more entries, the committee decided to extend invitations to all alternates. There have also been very few judges who want to judge the Nationals and Finals trials. The random draw requirements for selecting the judges are also limiting, but the committee can change the rules to give the Nationals Rally Chair more leeway in which judges they hire, to ensure that the most qualified judges are used.

**Ms. Black and Ms. Shanks left the meeting at 3:36 pm.**

## **Meeting with Nationals Advisory Committee**

**Nationals Advisory Committee Chair Laura Gibson and Members Terri Morgan and Renee Watson joined the meeting at 3:37 pm.** They updated the Board on some current issues in front of the committee.

**2026 Nationals Site** – The committee's focus right now is finding a suitable site for the 2026 Nationals. The Board needs to consider whether ASCA should return to a rotation of pre-determined sites. The committee will provide the Board with a comparison of sites by May 1, 2023, so they can decide on a plan moving forward during their Spring Meeting in April 2023.

Sites currently being researched:

- Creelman is researching sites in Bakersfield and Santa Rosa, California.
- Ms. Morgan is researching a site in Greeley, Colorado.
- Ms. Watson is researching sites in Perry, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; Springfield, Illinois; and another in North Carolina.
- Wesen is researching sites in Hamburg, New York, and Ocala, Florida.

Gerken asked about the site in Gillette, Wyoming that has been proposed. The committee has not investigated it yet, but any director can conduct preliminary research by contacting a site to find out its availability and cost. Our budget varies depending on what's included in the total cost, but the facility should cost between \$40-60k for ten days of rental.

Ms. Gibson has been compiling Nationals-related documents in a Google Drive for reference.

The 2021 audit management letter noted that ASCA tracks the activity of the Nationals in an Excel spreadsheet but does not record the activity in its general ledger. They recommended that ASCA develop procedures to ensure this activity is recorded in the general ledger and that the records clearly support the financial statements. Treasurer Wesen will find out exactly what the auditors think is necessary.

The Board stressed the importance of developing a mentorship or training program for entry clerks. We need to have a qualified pool of candidates to choose from and not rely on the same people year after year.

**Ms. Gibson, Ms. Morgan, and Ms. Watson left the meeting at 4:10 pm.**

## Nationals Board Position

**2022 Nationals Chair Rachel Vest joined the meeting at 4:10 pm.** She requested the Board consider compensation for the Nationals Chair considering the amount of work involved.

**Ms. Vest left the meeting at 4:17 pm.**

## 2023 ASCA Budget

Treasurer Wesen presented the proposed budget for 2023 for ASCA. She suggested budgeting a 5-10% increase from last year's actual numbers and requested guidance from the Board. She noted that we are way over what we anticipated and budgeted for computer expenses this year.

Byrne suggested an increase of 3-5% due to the instability of the economy.

Wesen said that, as money comes into the office, the Office Manager has been paying invoices as he is able. We do not have savings to use for operating costs anymore, despite redeeming the money in the Raymond James investment account. She is concerned that there won't be enough money to finish the new user portal for the computer system. She will update the budget and share it via email for approval at the next Board meeting.

## Cost of Rule Books/Governing Documents

The Board discussed increasing the cost of ordering a rule book or governing document from the Business Office. We currently charge \$2.50 per rule book/document for full members, but it costs a minimum of \$3.49 to mail (it varies based on the size of the rule book/document). The fee has not changed in at least eighteen years and should be updated to reflect current costs.

Directors agreed that people should be encouraged to print documents themselves rather than request them from the Business Office.

### **BD.22.128 Increase Cost of Printed Rule Books/Governing Documents**

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Wesen to increase the fee that the Business Office charges for all ASCA rule books and governing documents to \$10 per book (including shipping), effective immediately. Seconded by Larson.

The Board will revisit this fee every two years at its Spring Meeting to determine if an increase is necessary.

## Additional Event Membership Dues

In October 2020, the Board increased the additional event membership dues (AEMD), effective June 1, 2021. They were increased to \$1.25 per entry for stockdog events and \$0.50 per entry for all other program events. The Board decided to keep these fees at the current rate and will re-evaluate during next year's Nationals meeting.

Gann suggested increasing the Nationals entry fees.



## 2023 Nationals – Budget

It's become the practice for the Board to review the budget for the upcoming Nationals during this meeting, but it has not been provided yet. Liaison Gann will reach out to the Nationals Chair to have her share the budget as soon as possible.

## System Liaison's Report

System Liaison Larson reported that Mr. Walter covered much of the information in her report during yesterday's meeting. The ASCA team is meeting virtually tonight, and the Inventive team is currently working on the new user portal. New computers have been installed in the Business Office and the staff is now using them to operate the new system.

Gann asked if there are currently any outstanding invoices to Inventive. Treasurer Wesen said she did not know but assumed there was. That is a question for the Office Manager.

## System Liaison

Each year, the Board appoints a director to act as System Liaison.

### BD.22.129 System Liaison for 2022-2023

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Gann to appoint Gina Larson to serve as System Liaison for the next year.  
Seconded by Gerken.

## ASCA Business Office

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board discussed the functioning of the Business Office and the responsibilities of the Office Manager. They also considered an offer from member Jacqueline Tinker to conduct an efficiency study on the Business Office.

**The meeting was postponed from 5:45 pm until Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 8:15 pm.**

**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-elect Dawna Sims, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** Director Jean Roberts.

**President Busquets called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm.**

## Dock Jumping and Inclement Weather

Busquets reported on an issue with the Nationals Dock Jumping trial and possible inclement weather on Friday when half of the jumps are scheduled. According to the program rules, they cannot jump if there is lightning. The Nationals Dock Jumping Chair Lesli Hill and Dock Jumping Committee Chair Heidi Mobley proposed to allow some of the entrants to do their jumps on

Wednesday instead. Jumps will still be offered on Friday, if possible, but this is a way for those who do not want to risk the weather to still get their jumps. Everyone who entered has been notified of the situation, but there are concerns since the premium contained scheduled dates and times for these jumps to be held. However, considering the weather is out of everyone's control, the Board wishes to be accommodating.

### **BD.22.130 Dock Jumping – Plan for Inclement Weather at Nationals**

**Motion carried** (8-0-1) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: Gann. Absent: None.

Motioned by Wesen to allow the Nationals Dock Jumping trial to open on Wednesday for competitors to begin jumps due to possible inclement weather on Friday. Seconded by Larson.

### **Scent Search Committee**

Liaison Creelman reported that there has been some discord between members of the Scent Search Committee lately. The Board is concerned about the progress of the developing program if the committee is unable to properly communicate and work together. The Committee Procedures provide means for committee members to address issues with the chair or a member that Creelman should make sure they are aware of.

**The meeting was postponed from 8:45 pm until Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 9:20 pm.**

**In attendance:** Liz Busquets, Susan Byrne, Denise Creelman, Rick Gann, Carol Gerken, Gina Larson, Ann McCabe, Dawna Sims, Jan Wesen, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, and Office Manager Ray Fryar.

**The meeting was called to order at 9:20 pm.**

### **ASCA Board Officer Election**

**President** – Rick Gann.

**1st Vice President** – Susan Byrne.

**2nd Vice President** – Liz Busquets.

**Secretary** – Ann McCabe.

**Treasurer** – Jan Wesen.

**Directors** – Denise Creelman, Carol Gerken, Gina Larson, and Dawna Sims.

**Executive Secretary** – Kalla Jaco.

**Membership Secretary, Election Secretary** – Ray Fryar.

### **ASCA Foundation Board Office Election**

The officers of the ASCA Foundation are typically the same as the officers of the ASCA.

### **BD.22.131 ASCA Foundation Officers & Directors for 2022-2023**

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Wesen to approve the slate of Officers & Directors of the Australian Shepherd Club of America as the Officers & Directors of the ASCA Foundation.

**The meeting was postponed from 9:30 pm until Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 11:20 am.**

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets, Secretary Ann McCabe, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Gina Larson, Director Dawna Sims, Outgoing Director Jean Roberts, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Absent: Treasurer Jan Wesen.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.**

### **Complaint**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board received a complaint about a non-member in attendance at the Nationals.

**Notice from the Board** - Just as TSA will often remind passengers that "if you see something, say something," if you observe something peculiar or suspicious at a local or national ASCA event, please let a local officer or national board member or senior staff member know.

Because events are generally open to the public, in addition to those coming for the best of reasons, there also is the possibility that some would come to take advantage of the situation. Whether it be theft, harassing competitors, or something else, we cannot assume that everyone is there to promote the breed. We particularly want to ensure that our Juniors can focus on competing without worrying anyone will mistreat them due to their youth. Or it may be you come across what appears to be a safety hazard that others haven't yet spotted or fixed.

If the person you report a troubling situation to does not appear to take it seriously, please report it higher and higher up the chain until you are sure that someone has. What may be resolvable as a simple adjustment or by asking someone to leave the event can fester into something significantly worse if ignored or otherwise allowed to fall through the cracks.

By working together, we can continue to ensure competitors and spectators alike have the best experience possible at ASCA events long into the future. So, even at ASCA events, if you see something, say something.

### **2022 Nationals – On-Site Accident (continued)**

The Board was informed that Marie Nagano has suffered an additional injury. The Board will be updated as more information becomes available.

**The meeting was postponed from 11:45 am until 2:20 pm.**

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Gina Larson, Director Dawna Sims, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Absent: None.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm.**

## **Unpaid Invoices at ASCA Business Office**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board became aware of some unpaid invoices at the Business Office and discussed how to address the situation.

Byrne will be personally meeting with the Office Manager every two weeks to go through financial processes and increase transparency between the Board and the office. Byrne will also provide the Board with a list of recurring payments the office needs to make.

**The meeting was postponed from 2:48 pm until Friday, November 4, 2022, at 3:00 pm.**

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Gina Larson, Director Dawna Sims, Outgoing Director Jean Roberts, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Absent: None.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.**

## **Meeting with the Office Manager**

**Office Manager Ray Fryar joined the meeting at 3:03 pm.** The Board spoke with Mr. Fryar about the current state of the Business Office. This discussion was held in **Executive Session**.

**System Upgrade** – The new computers have been installed at the office and the staff is getting used to the new systems. We cannot currently update the fees that were changed in June 2022 until the user portal is finished since the old prices are hardcoded into the old system. He noted that it is important to bring Allison Bryant back into the project to review the finished product.

The issue of unpaid invoices was also discussed. ASCA can continue to operate with the current level of income, however, expenses need to be curtailed.

**Office Staff** – Mr. Fryar is planning to restructure responsibilities once the staff is accustomed to the new system, which may help alleviate some of the backlogs.

**Stockdog Judge Test** – The biennial test for Stockdog Judges should have gone out on July 15 but it was not sent until October 27. The test also did not include a deadline for it to be returned. It should have been due by September 15. The Assistant Manager will send out an email to all Stockdog Judges explaining the test and the timeframe to return it.

**Mr. Fryar left the meeting at 3:45 pm.**

## Refund Request

The Board received a refund request from Darla Huffman for her Nationals Obedience and Rally entries totaling \$70 due to her dog's injury. She provided a copy of the veterinarian's report.

### **BD.22.133 Nationals Entry Refund Request – Darla Huffman**

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Larson to approve the refund of Darla Huffman's Nationals entry fees due to her dog's injury (report from veterinarian was provided). Seconded by Gerken.

## 2023 Nationals – Judge Change

The 2023 Nationals Chair has informed the Board that it is necessary to replace Sheila Polk as the intact bitches judge for the 2023 Nationals Conformation Show. Karen Roesner has agreed to take her place.

### **BD.22.134 Replacement Judge for 2023 Nationals Conformation Show (Intact Bitches)**

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Byrne to approve Karen Roesner to replace Sheila Polk as the judge of intact bitches at the 2023 Nationals Conformation Show. Seconded by Larson.

## Missing Funds from Affiliate Club

The Board was contacted by an affiliate regarding a Show Secretary that has not relinquished all funds from their recent event. The club may need to take legal action, but Busquets has been assigned to investigate and write a report for the Board to have on file in any case.

## Illustrated Breed Standard

ASCA and the Conformation Committee contracted with artist Shelly Hollen in August 2021 to create drawings for an illustrated breed standard. Ms. Hollen has provided the drawings per her contract, but the Conformation Committee has not fulfilled their part of the agreement yet. The drawings must be evaluated, and any edit requests returned to Ms. Hollen as soon as possible so she can be paid the remainder of her fee.

### **BD.22.135 Directive to Conformation Committee – Illustrated Breed Standard**

**Motion carried** (9-0) – Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Creelman that the Conformation Committee be given a directive to discuss and finalize the Illustrated Breed Standard, with all committee member input, by December 31, 2022. Seconded by Gerken.

## **Scent Search Committee (continued)**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. Liaison Creelman spoke more about the discord on the Scent Search Committee. The committee's chair Donna Armstrong is very knowledgeable and passionate about the program but has not been fostering effective communication. The Board voted to remove Ms. Armstrong from the committee.

It has also been brought to the attention of the Board that the abbreviation of the name Scent Search – SS – is offensive considering the history of the use of SS to refer to the Nazi Schutzstaffel from World War II. The Board supports the committee in choosing a new name for the program.

## **Judge Education Directive to Committees**

During the Annual Membership Meeting, Members Sue Graham and Pam Smith brought up the need for in-person judge education. The Board realizes how important this is and is considering sending a directive to committees to pursue this form of education however possible.

## **Deadline to Return Event Paperwork**

The deadline for affiliates to return paperwork from an event to the Business Office is currently fifteen days. The Board considered changing this to ten days to help get results processed quicker. Creelman will propose a motion over email.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm (Motedioned by Larson. Seconded by Sims).**

## **ASCA Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was held via GoToMeeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022.

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Gina Larson, Director Dawna Sims, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

Open Session topics were recorded and may be listened to on ASCA's [YouTube channel](#).

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.**

## **Committee Status Reports**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 6:03 pm to 6:39 pm. Board Liaisons provided a brief status update on their committees. It was agreed that in mid-December each year liaisons will send a reminder to the committees about what is expected of them in the upcoming year according to the Committee Procedures. Included will be a note about the requirement that all committee business takes place on the groups.io discussion list. This is so all members have access to the discussion and a chance to participate, and to ensure that the discussions are all archived for future reference.

## October 2022 Treasurer's Report

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 6:39 pm to 6:50 pm. The financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2022, were presented by Treasurer Wesen and she updated the Board regarding ASCA's current fiscal condition and projections for the future. Members can find the Treasurer's report and analysis in the member-only section of ASCA's website.

### BD.22.148 October 2022 Treasurer's Report

**Motion carried** (8-0-1) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims. Disapproved: None. Abstained: Wesen. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Gerken to approve the October 2022 Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Sims.**

## 2023 ASCA Budget

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 6:50 pm to 6:53 pm. The Board continued their discussion of the budget for the next fiscal year, as prepared by Treasurer Wesen. Wesen noted that our major expense continues to be the computer project.

### BD.22.149 2023 ASCA Budget

**Motion carried** (8-0-1) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims. Disapproved: None. Abstained: Wesen. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Wesen to approve the budget as presented for 2023. Seconded by McCabe.**

## Fundraising for ASCA

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 6:53 pm to 7:34 pm. The Board moved forward with plans for a fundraising campaign for the ASCA computer system project, headed by member Cynthia Downing. The Board is very grateful for her willingness to use her expertise to help ASCA through this difficult time.

Here is a link to the GoFundMe page that she created: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-pay-off-ASCAs-new-computer-system>

Here is a link to the downloadable donation form that can be filled out and sent directly to the Business Office: <https://asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ASCA-Donor-form.pdf>

All the funds donated will be deposited into ASCA's savings account.

### BD.22.150 Computer System Fundraising Representative

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Creelman that President Gann includes ASCA Member Cynthia Downing as a computer fundraiser representative for ASCA and that they proceed with this project immediately upon Board approval. Second by Busquets.**

**Moved to Open Session at 7:33 pm.** President Gann welcomed the members listening, introduced those present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

## **October 2022 Email Business**

Started at 7:34 pm. 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.

### **BD.22.151 October 2022 Email Business**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Larson to ratify all business conducted over email in October 2022.  
Seconded by Creelman.**

## **Junior 500 Club for Performance Events**

Started at 7:34 pm. McCabe is the Liaison to the Junior Committee, and she reported on the work the committee is doing to implement a 500 Club for juniors in performance programs. The committee was mandated to institute a 500 Club (like what is available for junior handlers in showmanship) for each of the performance events. Last year, they implemented a program for working juniors and their intent was to gather a year's worth of data and then adjust the point values to make 500 points an attainable goal with concerted effort. They planned to do the same thing for agility. However, they cannot follow through with this plan until the programs are programmed into the new computer system. As it stands, it could be until 2024 or later that 500 Clubs can be put in place for either of these programs.

Currently, points for the junior awards are tracked by age group and region for handling, obedience, rally, and working. They are also tracked by class in obedience and rally, and there are two divisions in working. This information is included in the standings reports on the website. The junior rules provide for awards or prizes to be given, but it is up to the Board what those awards or prizes are. At this year's Nationals, the Junior Committee used funds that were donated to the junior program to present embroidered chairs to the high-scoring junior in each division for each performance program (including the #1 junior in Agility Finals).

When the Board mandated the committee to come up with a 500 Club for the performance programs, the intent was to give the juniors embroidered jackets. Since this won't be able to happen for several years, she suggested the Board specify that jackets will be given to the high-scoring juniors in each division for each program. This would be a great way to recognize the juniors in performance programs before a 500 Club is developed.

Busquets said that she was looking forward to the Junior Committee getting a 500 Club in place for the performance juniors. They work hard and should be recognized.

Byrne and Creelman were also looking forward to the committee finding a way to make the 500 Club work for all programs.

Gerken asked whether this is something the committee needs to bring to the Board or if this is something the Board can bring to the committee. McCabe reiterated that it is the Board's authority to determine which awards or prizes are given to the juniors.



Larson was in favor of providing jackets to the top juniors in each division for each program. She thought the Board should make a motion to this effect.

Sims agreed with Larson and was also looking forward to having the 500 Club developed for each program. She thought that offering jackets to the high-scoring juniors was a great way to recognize the performance juniors in the meantime.

Wesen also supported providing jackets to the high-scoring juniors until the 500 Club programs are developed. She brought up that the working and agility programs may need to be tallied by hand so they can compile the data before it gets programmed.

Gann said that it was important to keep the committee engaged on this project. He thought it was a very nice recognition to provide jackets to the high-scoring juniors in each performance program.

McCabe will work on the details and bring forward a motion to specify the jackets as awards.

## **System Liaison's Report**

Started at 7:53 pm. System Liaison Larson reported on the status of the WARP-1 database migration/system upgrade project ongoing with Inventive since 6/15/2021. During the membership meeting at Nationals, she mentioned that the plan is to have all the standings and merit lists automatically generated and sent to the website weekly. Maarten Walter is currently working with Cathy Kenny to get this done. Even though the new Supreme Conformation Championship program cannot be programmed into the computer system currently, Mr. Walter is working to generate a list of dogs that have earned the titles so the Business Office can begin issuing certificates. Inventive is currently working on the user/admin portal and we have been advised that there are approximately sixty hours of dev-op time left to do. Part of the portal is completed and was pushed to staging this morning. Maureen Loughney has been doing a lot of testing and will lead ASCA's volunteer subject matter experts in testing the user portal starting after Thanksgiving.

Gann asked if the certificates for the Supreme Conformation Championship will be issued retroactively. Larson answered that the titles will be issued going back to the effective date of the program which was June 1, 2021.

## **Delivery of Finals Letters**

Started at 7:55 pm. The Board continued their discussion of changing the method of delivering the Finals invitation/confirmation letters to email. Gann reported that he had been working on this and wanted the membership to know the Board's concerns and reasoning. Each year there are issues with the delivery of the Finals invitations and the Board is considering changing the method of delivery from USPS to email.

Busquets has always been in favor of sending invitations over email to cut down on delivery issues. People on the invite list will need to be sure to check their spam folder in case they don't see the invite in their inbox.

Byrne agreed that email is the best way to deliver the invites. Everyone will receive them at the same time, and we will no longer have to pay for the postage to mail the invites. With the new portal, each member will also be required to have a unique email address. We will need to be sure to inform the membership that this change is happening, so they are ready for it by the time the invites go out.

Creelman thought it was a great idea to send the invites over email and that we should be sending most of our communications with members over email.

Gerken agreed with sending the invites over email. Postal service is becoming less reliable and this needs to be handled in a timely manner. Notification should be sent to the member lists and posted on the website when the invites are sent reminding everyone to check their email if they are expecting one.

Larson agreed with sending the invites over email.

McCabe has been an advocate of this for a while. She mentioned that the Office Manager previously claimed it was easier for the office to mail out the invitations, but she hoped he would recognize that sending them over email is the most effortless method and better serves the membership. The less paper we are using in the office the better.

Sims agreed that sending the invites over email is the most efficient way to handle it.

Wesen also agreed with sending the invites over email due to the faster delivery to all Finalists and the use of less paper in the office.

Gann agreed with everything that had been brought up by the other directors. He will follow up with the Business Office to come up with a process to change the method of delivery starting with the 2023 Finals.

## **ASCA Going Paperless**

Started at 8:05 pm. The Board continued their discussion of ASCA moving to a paperless system. Director Gann has been working with the Assistant Manager at the Business Office on this. The agility program was mostly paperless already, so it was the first program to be transitioned. The office ran out of forms for tracking, so that was the next program to be transitioned. Rally is currently being transitioned and there are a couple of affiliates that will be helping to test the process and provide feedback. The need to go paperless is due to the significant amount of money ASCA spends on postage. It is going to be a big change but will help move ASCA in the right direction and the Board hopes the membership will be supportive. Gann noted that there will need to be some housekeeping changes made to the program rules to reflect the new processes.

Busquets was in favor of eliminating the extra copies of paperwork and streamlining the process for the office to send out paperwork and for the affiliate to return the results. There will be a lot of changes, but she hoped people would get used to them.

Byrne agreed that change is not always easy, but it is necessary in this case to minimize costs. She also hoped we could come up with ways to make it easier for clubs to report the event results.

Creelman supported going paperless at the office to reduce expenses. With the technology available to us today, it does not make sense to spend so much money on postage. We will be able to do everything with a few clicks now.

Gerken voiced her support for going paperless. It will make everything more efficient for those involved and will help save money.

Larson noted that a future enhancement for the computer system is for affiliates to be able to enter results in real-time during an event. The changes in the meantime will take some getting used to and we will have tutorial videos to help. For the stockdog program, the requirement for affiliates to send back all the entries with copies of the paperwork may need to be changed in the rules or affiliates will need to scan them all which can be a lot of work.

McCabe said that she has been providing event results in an Excel spreadsheet for the office for many years. It currently costs the office approximately \$14 to ship the event paperwork to the affiliates and that really adds up when you consider how many events are held. Especially since

three-quarters of the paperwork is already available on the website. Using a spreadsheet to submit results is easier every time since you can copy and paste from the initial document. We will work with affiliates to help with this change – no one will be left hanging.

Sims was in favor of going paperless. She said that her club holds trials for other organizations, and they are already paperless. It was a transition and there was a learning curve, but it is more efficient. This will help to streamline processes in the Business Office and save shipping costs.

Wesen was also in favor of going paperless. Judges will also be receiving their event paperwork via email.

Gann noted that we are transitioning one program at a time and will incorporate member feedback throughout the process. He stressed that ASCA and the Board will provide help to affiliates to aid in adjusting to this big change.

## **Merit Award Certificates**

Started at 8:20 pm. The Board discussed the process for the Business Office to send out merit award certificates. Gann reported that with the new computer system, members will be able to view their dogs' certificates in the portal and can download and print them off themselves. The Board is considering whether to stop sending certificates by mail and make them only available through the portal. There has been a lot of member feedback on this topic and the Board is taking it all into account.

Busquets was torn between continuing to mail certificates and making people responsible for printing them off. Exhibitors work hard for their titles and getting the certificates mailed from the office is a nice recognition of that. However, cutting down on postage would help ASCA. She thought the Board should continue to seek input from the membership and discuss.

Byrne agreed with Busquets. She thought that only the high-level titles could be mailed, and the rest could be up to the exhibitor to print off.

Creelman and Gerken agreed with Byrne's suggestion.

Larson noted that a future enhancement to the computer system would be to allow members to opt out of receiving the mailed certificates. That way, people who still want to receive them by mail could do so, but it would still cut down on ASCA's costs. She thought this should be tabled until the Board can do more research and get more member feedback.

McCabe agreed with Larson. She pointed out that exhibitors can print off the certificates on whatever paper they like.

Sims and Wesen agreed with Larson's suggestion to allow members to opt out.

Gann reminded the membership that the Board is listening to your feedback and taking it all under consideration.

President Gann thanked all the Directors for their work this month and the members listening.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm. (Motioned by Busquets, Seconded by Larson).**

## **ASCA Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was held via GoToMeeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Gina Larson, Director Dawna Sims, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.**

## **ASCA Finances and Moving Forward**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 7:01 pm to 7:56 pm. Directors shared their thoughts on ASCA's current fundraising campaign and other ideas on moving forward and ensuring this won't happen again.

There needs to be steady communication between the Business Office and the Board and a clear process for oversight of the donated funds so they are handled consistently after this Board is gone. A plan needs to be put in writing to be shared with the membership.

The Board should be utilizing the Strategic Plan more seriously and budgeting strategically for any computer system maintenance that will occur in the future. ASCA's Business Plan also needs to be updated. Creelman suggested having a dedicated technology committee that checks on necessary computer updates periodically.

Some members have requested the Board have a forensic audit done. This is different from a financial audit. The Board would like to remain focused on moving forward and did not believe there was much to gain from a forensic audit.

## **Crowdfunding Proposal from Kristin Horowitz**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 7:56 pm to 8:25 pm. The Board discussed a proposal from ASCA Member Kristin Horowitz regarding a crowdfunding campaign and her offer to run it for the Board. Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the internet. She thought this would be a good way to target the members who are most engaged and likely to donate. She has been involved in successful crowdfunding ventures before and offered her services to ASCA free of charge.

While the Board agreed that this proposal had merit, the majority were not in favor of doing anything that might overshadow the current fundraising campaign. Some Directors thought it could be investigated for future projects after the computer system project is completed.

## **Sanctioning Request from Australian Shepherd Event Agency**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 8:25 pm to 8:44 pm. The Board considered a request from the Australian Shepherd Event Agency to sanction an event on May 18-21, 2023. The sanctioning was initially denied by the Business Office because another affiliate is holding an event that weekend in the same area and they did not give permission. However, ASEA claimed that they had the first right to that weekend according to the conformation rules (Section 3.14 Right to Show Dates).

In order to have the first right to a date clubs must sanction events on the same numbered weekend for two consecutive years. Show weekends are tied to the numbered weekend and not necessarily a holiday, as sometimes holidays fall on different numbered weekends each year.

Directors agreed that because ASEA had not held a show on the same numbered weekend for the last two years they did not have the first right to the weekend they requested. They will be advised to work with the Business Office to find a new date that works for them.

#### **BD.22.152 Sanctioning Request from ASEA**

**Motion failed** (0-9) - Approved: None. Disapproved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Busquets to grant ASEA the requested weekend for their show to be sanctioned. Seconded by McCabe.**

### **Going Paperless at the Business Office**

Started at 8:44 pm. Busquets recently took over the lead on this project from Gann. She reported that the Assistant Manager was going to work on the stockdog and conformation programs next since some affiliates are willing to help with testing it out. Some of the forms will need to be revised when they are converted to PDF since they are very old. She suggested the Assistant Manager talk with the committees to find out if there were any revisions they would like included and she can hopefully incorporate them. Agility and tracking are done, and rally is being worked on.

Busquets also reported that all the affiliate renewal packets were sent out over email this year instead of being mailed, which has already saved ASCA money on postage.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm. (Motioned by Byrne, Seconded by Creelman).**

## **ASCA Board Motions**

### **Director Recommendations**

#### **BD.22.137 New Savings Account for Additional Event Membership Dues**

**Motion carried** (8-1) - Approved: Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: Byrne. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Dissent from Director Byrne:** I don't feel this is necessary - just closer monitoring of the funds.

**Motion by Wesen that ASCA a new separate savings account for the AEMD Additional Event Member dues received each month and transferred each month starting January 1st 2023. Second by Gerken.**

Comments/Rationale: Have the financials for finals separated from operating funds.

Affected: Office.

Effective Date: January 1, 2023.

#### **BD.22.138 New Accounting Firm**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Wesen use of a NEW accounting firm. Second by Gerken.**

Harlan Walker

Schnauffer & Walker, P.C.

2695 Villa Creek Dr, #268, Dallas, TX 75234

Comments/Rationale: Need an accountant that will be available to answer questions in a timely fashion.

Affected: ASCA Board and Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## **Committee Recommendations**

### **JUNIOR COMMITTEE**

#### **JR.22.06 Junior Handling Judge Eligibility**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

#### **Motion by McCabe to approve the following recommendation from the Junior Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motioned by Shelby Shank to revise Section 8.1.2.1 Eligibility of Judge in the Junior Rule Book. Seconded by Alexi Staples.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 9. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 3.

Current Wording:

#### **8.1.2.1 Eligibility of Judge**

Any person who is a former ASCA Junior Handling competitor and has attained their 21st birthday may be approved by the ASCA Board of Directors to judge Junior Handling, provided that the provisions listed in Appendix A of this rulebook are met. In addition, any ASCA Breeder Judge, ASCA Senior Breeder Judge, or other approved conformation judges listed in the ASCA Approved Judges List (from the conformation section) may judge Junior Handling. ASCA Non-Regular judges are not permitted to judge junior handling.

Proposed Wording:

#### **8.1.2.1 Eligibility of Judge**

Any person who is a former ASCA Junior Handling competitor, has passed the junior judges test, and has attained their 21st birthday may be approved by the ASCA Board of Directors to judge Junior Handling, provided that the provisions listed in Appendix A of this rulebook are met. In addition, any ASCA Provisional Breeder Judge, ASCA Breeder Judge, ASCA Senior Breeder Judge, or other approved conformation judges listed in the ASCA Approved Judges List (from the conformation section) may judge Junior Handling. ASCA Non-Regular judges are not permitted to judge junior handling.

Comments/Rationale: To clarify that Provisional Breeder Judges are eligible to judge Junior Showmanship and that any person who has passed the Junior Judges test is eligible to judge Junior Showmanship at regular shows. The National Specialty and the accompanying events are not included as they have their own requirements.

Affected: ASCA Judges, Junior Handling Competitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

### **JR.22.07 Nationals Junior Handling Judge Eligibility**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Liaison McCabe to approve the following recommendation from the Junior Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motioned by Shelby Shank to revise Section 8.9 in the National Specialty Rule Book. Seconded by Alexi Staples.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 8. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 4.

Current Wording:

#### **Section 8.9 Junior Handling Judges**

Regular Junior Handling and Finals Junior Handling Judges must meet one of the following qualifications:

1. Previous ASCA Junior Handler over the age of twenty-one
2. ASCA Breeder Judge

Proposed Wording:

#### **Section 8.9 Junior Handling Judges**

Regular Junior Handling and Finals Junior Handling Judges must meet one of the following qualifications:

1. ASCA Approved Junior Judge
2. ASCA Breeder Judge or ASCA Senior Breeder Judge

Comments/Rationale: To clarify that only Approved Junior Judges, ASCA Breeder Judges, & ASCA Senior Breeder Judges are eligible to Judge Junior Showmanship Finals & the National Specialty.

Affected: ASCA Nationals Committee, Nationals Advisory Committee.

Effective Date: 2023 Nationals and forward.

### **JR.22.08 Changes to Provisional Junior Judge Qualifications and Test Procedures**

**Motion carried** (8-1) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims. Disapproved: Wesen. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Dissent from Director Wesen:** 21 is recognized adult age.

**Motion by Liaison McCabe to approve the following recommendation from the Junior Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Shelby Shank. Seconded by Andrea Bair.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 8. Disapproved: 1. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 3.

**Dissent from Deb St. Jacques:** I believe 21 years of age is important.

Current Wording: Appendix A: Junior Judge Requirements

#### **Provisional Junior Judge Requirements**

Before applying for Provisional Junior Judge status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be at least 21 years of age at the time of application.

- B. The applicant must have been a former ASCA Junior who entered and competed in a minimum of 5 Junior Handling competitions each year for a minimum of 2 years.
- C. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Approved Junior Rules & Regulations.
- D. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Approved Conformation Show Rules and Regulations. These are minimum requirements for applying, and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis before acceptance into the program. Applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

### **Procedure**

Steps in applying for Provisional Junior Judge:

- A. Submit Juniors Judge Application to the ASCA Business Office. The application is to be in the form of a letter with supporting information to show the list of years as an active ASCA Junior Handler and any accomplishments attained in the ASCA Junior Program. It is requested that the junior number also be listed as well.
- B. Upon receipt of the application, the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.
- C. When the ASCA Business Office determines the minimum requirements have been met they will send the applicant a Junior Judge's test. This test must be completed and returned to the ASCA Business Office within two (2) months. For native English speakers, a score of 100% is required to pass. For non-native English speakers, a score of 90% is required to pass. If the test is failed, the applicant must wait 30 days to retake the test. If the applicant fails the exam 3 times, the applicant must wait 6 months after the 3rd failed attempt to begin the process again and submit a new application.
- D. Upon passing the judges' test, the applicant's name will be published in the Aussie Times for comments from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application, judges' test results and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the applicant within sixty (60) days.
- E. The ASCA Board of Directors will investigate any properly documented negative comments. The application will be denied if this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved. If denied, the applicant will receive an explanation for the denial which may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the provisional level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors.
- F. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Provisional Junior Judge and, at that time, may then accept judging assignments as outlined above. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will also be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as a Provisional Junior Judge with the notation of "A" beside their name.

Proposed Wording: Appendix A: Junior Judge Requirements

### **Provisional Junior Judge Requirements**

Before applying for Provisional Junior Judge status, the following requirements must be met:



- A. Must be at least 23 years of age at the time of application and must be a member of the Sponsoring Affiliate Club for a minimum of two continuous (without a lapse in Membership) years immediately preceding their application to become an ASCA Junior Judge.
- B. The applicant must have been a former ASCA Junior who entered and competed in a minimum of 5 Junior Handling competitions each year for a minimum of 4 years.
- C. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Approved Junior Rules & Regulations.
- D. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Approved Conformation Show Rules and Regulations. These are minimum requirements for applying, and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis before acceptance into the program. Applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

## **Procedure**

Steps in applying for Provisional Junior Judge:

- A. Submit Juniors Judge Application and Affiliate Sponsorship Form to the ASCA Business Office. The application can be found on the ASCA website under "Rules & Forms", "Conformation Forms", and "Junior Judge Application". The Affiliate Sponsorship form is attached to the application.
- B. Upon receipt of the application and Affiliate Sponsorship form, the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.
- C. When the ASCA Business Office determines the minimum requirements have been met they will send the Application and Sponsorship Form to the Junior Committee Chair who will email the applicant the test. This test must be completed and returned to the Junior Committee Chair within two (2) months. For native English speakers, a score of 100% is required to pass. For non-native English speakers, a score of 90% is required to pass. If the test is failed, the applicant must wait 30 days to retake the test. If the applicant fails the exam 2 times, the applicant must wait 6 months after the 2nd failed attempt to begin the process again and submit a new application.
- D. Upon passing the judges' test, the applicant's name will be published in the Aussie Times for comments from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application, judges' test results and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the applicant within sixty (60) days.
- E. The ASCA Board of Directors will investigate any properly documented negative comments. The application will be denied if this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved. If denied, the applicant will receive an explanation for the denial which may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the provisional level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors.
- F. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Provisional Junior Judge and, at that time, may then accept judging assignments as outlined above. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will also be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as a Provisional Junior Judge with the notation of "A" beside their name.

Comments/Rationale: To clarify Junior Judge requirements and procedures to apply.

Affected: Those interested in applying to be a junior judge.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

### **JR.22.09 Changes to Approved Junior Judge Qualifications**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

### **Motion by Liaison McCabe to approve the following recommendation from the Junior Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Shelby Shank. Seconded by Andrea Bair.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 9. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 3.

Current Wording: Appendix A: Junior Judge Requirements

### **Approved Junior Judge Requirements**

Before applying for Approved Junior Judge Status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Previously approved as an ASCA Junior Judge prior to 6/1/2021 or complete items B & C of this section.
- B. Must be an ASCA Provisional Junior Judge.
- C. Must have completed judging on a minimum of five (5) junior handling judging assignments with an entry of three (3) or more entrants from the regular classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation Shows.

These are minimum requirements for applying, and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. The applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

### **Procedure**

Steps in applying for Approved Junior Judge:

- A. Junior judges who were approved prior to 6/1/2021 are automatically approved and have judged within the last 5 years, do not need to file anything. It is recommended that those judges confirm with the ASCA Business Office to make sure that their status gets updated accordingly.
- B. In letter format submit the following documentation to the ASCA Business Office:
  - 1. Judges books (legible copies are permitted) showing the completion of judging on a minimum of five (5) junior handling judging assignments with an entry of three (3) or more entrants from the regular classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation Shows.
  - 2. Documentation must include the name of the Affiliate club sponsoring the sanctioned show, the date of the judging assignment, the name of the show secretary, the classes judged and the number of entries judged.
  - 3. Documentation may include any other additional educational steps taken or beneficial activity the applicant may have been involved in since approval as a Provisional Junior Judge.
- D. The ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met, upon receipt of the application letter.
- E. Once the Office has determined that the applicant has met the minimum requirements, they will forward the judging assignment information and any comments made by the Affiliate Club on the judges review form from the sanctioning paperwork to the ASCA Board of Directors.
- F. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the applicant within sixty (60) days.

G. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Approved Junior Judge and, at that time, may then accept judging assignments as outlined above. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will also be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be amended in the ASCA Approved Judges List as an Approved Junior Judge with the notation of "J" beside their name.

#### Proposed Wording: Appendix A: Junior Judge Requirements

### **Approved Junior Judge Requirements**

Before applying for Approved Junior Judge Status, the following requirements must be met:

A. Previously approved as an ASCA Junior Judge prior to 6/1/2021 or complete items B & C of this section.

B. Must be an ASCA Provisional Junior Judge.

C. Must have completed judging on a minimum of five (5) junior handling judging assignments with a minimum of (2) being 75 miles from their Affiliate Sponsor Club and no more than (1) assignment being from their Affiliate Sponsor Club. Assignments must have an entry of three (3) or more entrants from the regular junior classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation Shows.

These are minimum requirements for applying, and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. The applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

### **Procedure**

Steps in applying for Approved Junior Judge:

A. Junior judges who were approved prior to 6/1/2021 are automatically approved and have judged within the last 5 years, do not need to file anything. It is recommended that those judges confirm with the ASCA Business Office to make sure that their status gets updated accordingly.

B. In letter format submit the following documentation to the ASCA Business Office:

1. Judges books (legible copies are permitted) showing the completion of judging on a minimum of five (5) junior handling judging assignments with a minimum of (2) being 75 miles from their Affiliate Sponsor Club and no more than (1) assignment being from their Affiliate Sponsor Club with an entry of three (3) or more entrants from the regular junior classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation Shows.

2. Documentation must include the name of the Affiliate club sponsoring the sanctioned show, the date of the judging assignment, the name of the show secretary, the classes judged and the number of entries judged.

C. Documentation may include any other additional educational steps taken or beneficial activity the applicant may have been involved in since approval as a Provisional Junior Judge.

D. The ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met, upon receipt of the application letter.

E. Once the Office has determined that the applicant has met the minimum requirements, they will forward the judging assignment information and any comments made by the Affiliate Club on the judges review form from the sanctioning paperwork to the ASCA Board of Directors.

F. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the applicant within sixty (60) days.

G. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Approved Junior Judge and, at that time, may then accept judging assignments as outlined above. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will also be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be

amended in the ASCA Approved Judges List as an Approved Junior Judge with the notation of "J" beside their name.

Comments/Rationale: To clarify Approved Junior Judging requirements and procedures to apply.

Affected: All current Junior Judges (Provisional & Approved), and those interested in applying to be a junior judge.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

## **TRACKING COMMITTEE**

### **TR.22.01 Protective Clothing for Tracking Dogs**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

### **Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Jacqueline Tinker to replace Tracking rule 1.17.1 with updated wording. Seconded by Lisa Klein.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording: To be replaced with new wording.

#### **1.17.1 During Hunting Season**

With the approval of the Judges, dogs may wear an unmarked hunting vest during Hunting Season.

Proposed Wording:

#### **1.17.1 Protective Clothing**

Dogs may wear a protective coat and/or footwear. If worn, the coat, tracking harness, and footwear must be put on in the presence of both judges.

Comments/Rationale: This will help other breed dogs tracking in areas with rugged cover/poor weather. This will also help Aussies who may be traveling long distances for a test and not be acclimated to the conditions in the new area. It will also make more tracking venues available to use that without protection may have been deemed too rough or dangerous.

Affected: Competitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

**Respectfully submitted by Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.**