



# THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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## ASCA Executive Secretary's Report November 2023

### Announcements

**New Judges:**

- Phillip Peart (Utah) - Non-Regular Breeder

**New Committee Members:**

- China Lewis (region 1) - Junior
- Amy Mathews (region 5) - Scent Detection
- Deborah Anderson (region 5) - Scent Detection

The following is the slate of officers for the ASCA and ASCA Foundation Board of Directors from November 2023 to October 2024.

- President Susan Byrne
- 1st Vice President Rick Gann
- 2nd Vice President Dawna Sims
- Secretary Ann McCabe
- Treasurer Jodie McLellan
- Director David Clayton
- Director Lynda Hardin
- Director Jillian Ward
- Director Jan Wesen
- Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco
- Election Secretary Sarah Jackson
- Membership Secretary Sarah Jackson

New System Liaison - David Clayton.

An additional \$15,000.00 payment to the loan from Guaranty Bank will be made with the monthly payment on November 15.

The 2024 ASCA budget was approved.

The Treasurer's report for October 2023 is available in the member portal.

The Board passed a motion to allow random schedule voting to take place as needed and outside of the fixed schedule voting.

The Board approved the announcement seeking volunteers for the 2025 National Specialty Committee.

A recommendation from the Rally Committee to change the way notifications are made for Rally Finalists and Alternates was approved by the Board, effective June 1, 2024.

A recommendation from the Rally Committee to change the process and timeline for selection of judges for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial was approved by the Board, effective November 27, 2023.

A recommendation from the Stockdog Committee to allow correction of omissions on score sheets within one hour of being handed out by a judge was approved by the Board, effective November 27, 2023.

The Board voted to make an exception to the draw procedure for 2025 Stockdog Finals Judges because the questionnaires were not sent to prospective judges. The draw will now be conducted during their Zoom meeting in December.

Moving forward Affiliate Clubs are only required to submit conformation and junior entry forms. The Show/Trial Secretary will be required to retain all other entry forms for a period of one year.

Employee evaluations will now be conducted in the fall with any raises to take effect on January 1 each year.

## ASCA Annual Affiliate Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of ASCA Affiliate Club members at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, on October 31, 2023.

**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 Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director David Clayton, Incoming Director Jillian Ward (left at 8 pm), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** Incoming Director Lynda Hardin.

**Members in attendance:** Elke Philippp, Maike Hagedorn, Susan Whiten, Carol Landry, Art Landry, Liz Bernstein, Robbi Norman, Corey Norman, Jerry Aufox, Sheila Freeman, Michelle Morgan, Renee Watson, Charla Patterson, Susan Severns, Ann DeChant, Audra Lopez, and Billie Richardson.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.** Those present introduced themselves and shared what affiliate club they were a member of.

## Summary of 2022 Affiliate Meeting

The Executive Secretary read a summary of the Affiliate Meeting held in 2022 in Bryan, Texas.

### Annual Review of Procedures

The meeting began with an annual review of the Conflict Resolution Protocols, Dog Aggression Rules, and Judge Evaluation Procedures. President Gann highlighted ongoing compliance challenges with affiliates in adhering to these critical procedures. He opened the floor for questions.

Michelle Morgan asked about the nature of common issues and the specific procedures often neglected. President Gann elaborated that affiliates frequently do not stop events to address issues promptly, leading to complications due to delayed responses.

A suggestion was made to reinforce procedure awareness among exhibitors at the beginning of events, perhaps during the initial handler briefings.

First Vice President Byrne proposed a mandatory policy for clubs to report incidents electronically to the Business Office within a 48-hour timeframe post-event, enabling timely action on disqualifications and preventing entry of disqualified dogs in subsequent events.

Several logistical questions were raised concerning the proposed policy: the ramifications of affiliates failing to report within the stipulated period, communication to subsequent event organizers about disqualified entries, and the notification process for the dog owner at the incident's occurrence.

A possible solution discussed involved creating an online submission form for incident reports that would update the disqualified dog list in real-time with a provisional 'action pending' status.

Concerns were voiced about the feasibility for affiliates to consult the updated disqualified dog list in a short timeframe and the need for a notification system. It was suggested that Affiliate Representatives could play a pivotal role in relaying this information to Show/Trial Secretaries.

It was clarified that while the club would not face penalties for oversight in recognizing disqualified dogs, the dog's owner would bear the consequences.

Jerry Aufox questioned whether ASCA aims to transition entirely to electronic submission of results. The Board affirmed this direction, citing precision and ease of processing as primary benefits of electronic submissions.

Renee Watson shared her experience utilizing efficient spreadsheets for conformation, rally, and obedience results and expressed willingness to collaborate on optimizing these tools for wider affiliate use. There is also a program available from Allard Wagenaar that could meet this need for affiliates.

Ann DeChant pointed out that not all clubs have access to resources or personnel skilled in electronic data management.

Secretary McCabe suggested a hybrid approach where affiliates could initially document results manually using printed spreadsheets and subsequently input the data electronically post-event, thus eliminating the need for real-time computer usage at the event.

Sheila Freeman reminded everyone of the existing instruction sheet for result submission, urging affiliates to utilize it effectively to their advantage.

## Event Paperwork

The topic of discussion was to cover common challenges faced by the Business Office regarding event documentation.

First Vice President Byrne highlighted the necessity for clubs to be careful when entering armband numbers across various sections of the results paperwork. While acknowledging the potential need for form improvement, she emphasized the importance of thoroughness from affiliates in completing paperwork. Meticulousness in this initial phase would significantly reduce the workload for the Business Office.

Billie Richardson proposed that the responsibility should be more firmly placed on the Show/Trial Secretaries, suggesting the establishment of deadlines for corrections to prevent unnecessary delays in results processing.

Ann DeChant observed that the individuals attending this meeting were not typically those who contribute to these issues. She emphasized the need for effective communication strategies to reach the affiliate clubs not represented at the meeting.

Robbi Norman inquired about the possibility of creating an online tutorial for event sanctioning. The Board agreed that the ASCA Webmaster could be approached to develop such a resource.

First Vice President Byrne brought up the consideration of imposing fines on clubs that consistently submit erroneous paperwork. The idea stemmed from the frustration felt by the Business Office when encountering repeated mistakes from certain affiliates.

Ann DeChant commented that while fines might be an effective deterrent, consideration must be given to smaller clubs that may struggle with such penalties due to limited staffing. She proposed a graduated disciplinary system: a warning for the first offense, a fine for the second, and a potential suspension of the Show/Trial Secretary's duties upon a third.

Incoming Director Ward suggested the creation of a checklist and an instructional YouTube video to guide clubs, especially after a first offense, and highlighted the future use of penalties as motivation for compliance.

Audra Lopez advocated for the implementation of educational tutorials before resorting to punitive measures. She asked about the proportion of paperwork received with errors. First Vice President Byrne estimated that about 70% of submissions contain at least one mistake, with many having multiple issues.

Ann DeChant recommended that a direct approach could be beneficial, with the affiliate being instructed to resolve the matter through their Show/Trial Secretary.

Consensus was reached on the point that education would be paramount in addressing and mitigating these recurring paperwork errors.

## Entry Form Submission Trial Change

Between June 1st and October 1st, 2023, the Board instituted a trial period wherein affiliates only needed to submit the entry forms for conformation and junior events. The Board solicited feedback from the attendees regarding the efficacy of this modification.

The response was overwhelmingly favorable. The adjustment has resulted in a reduction of administrative tasks for both the affiliates and the Business Office. It was, however, reiterated to Show/Trial Secretaries the necessity of maintaining the entry forms for all other programs for a duration of one year.

## Going Paperless

The Board inquired about the effectiveness of the paperless initiative for the affiliates in attendance.

Audra Lopez observed that the implementation is challenging for stock trials, which frequently occur in remote locations where making copies for everyone is problematic.

Director Sims shared that their club circumvents this issue by purchasing NCR (No Carbon Required) paper, which negates the need for separate copies.

Susan Severns questioned whether clubs have the option to receive physical paperwork from the office. This option is available, provided that the clubs cover the cost of shipping.

Sheila Freeman raised a question about when the obedience program would go paperless. Busquets confirmed that the transition is underway and is expected to be available in the near future.

## New Business

Robbi Norman asked about the prospect of introducing a virtual titling program for rally events. She expressed concerns that such a program could be harmful to her club and numerous others, emphasizing that in-person trials provide essential support for local affiliates.

The proposal is under review by the Rally Committee, with a focus on thoroughly evaluating the potential adverse effects that a virtual titling program might have on affiliate organizations.

## Announcements

Charla Patterson expressed her gratitude towards the office staff, sharing her firsthand experience with the demanding task of processing rally results after volunteering for a day during the summer.

Ann DeChant acknowledged the Board's efforts over the past year in devising strategies to secure the future of ASCA and expressed her thanks for their dedication.

The Board reciprocated with appreciation for the support and active engagement of all participants, valuing the constructive input provided during the meeting.

Ann DeChant then discussed the Ernest Hartnagle and Lifetime Achievement Awards, encouraging those present to engage with their respective affiliates to propose worthy nominees for these prestigious recognitions.

First Vice President Byrne extended thanks to all volunteers who assisted the Business Office throughout the year, emphasizing that their efforts have been pivotal in overcoming the challenges associated with the recent operational changes at the office.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.**

## ASCA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of ASCA members at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, on November 1, 2023.

**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 Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director David Clayton, Incoming Director Lynda Hardin, Incoming Director Jillian Ward, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**Members in attendance:** Morganne Aaberg, Jerry Aurox, Nate Bake, Stephanie Bake, Vickie Bartley, Lisa Bell, Helen Bergold, Nikki Bogle, Heather Braddock, Mark Buehl, Donna Burdick, Cherrie Cannon, Jennifer Cannon, Laura Clayton, Kathryn Cockerham, Catherine Collier, Leslie Creelman-Sosa, Jody Cull, Kathryn Dawson, Ann DeChant, Judy DeShazo, Neal DeShazo, Brian Dichian, Deborah Divich, Cynthia Downing, Wendy Eldredge, Kay Fuecker, Juliet Gentile, Laura Gibson, Gabriel Goodrick, Rick Hardin, David Harris, Marjory Hawkins, Sandra Hawkins, Lindsey Heins, Deanna Hengsteller, Lesli Hill, Melanie Hinkle, Sue Kelly, Catherine Kenny, Peter Kontos, Nina Krammer, Jennifer Laviola, Barbara Layton, Christy Layton, Estella Levy, Tracy Marek, Star Anne Mathis, Michael McGuire, Dena Merrill, Sally Meyers, Heidi Mobley, Scott Mobley, Marie Murphy, Samantha Murphy, Ron Niemzyk, Corey Norman, Robbi Norman, Nicole Oberschachtsiek, Cheryl Padgett, Cassie Parker, Eve Peacock, Elke Philippy, Devona Pierce, Jennifer Pierce, Richard Pittman, Cheri Preciado, Caitlin Price, Lorena Proia, Billie Richardson, Jeff Rusho, Birgitt Schmiedem-Eiche, Lisa Schmidt, Mirjam Senger, Anne Shope, Steve Shope, Mike Sims, Rachel Vest, Maarten Walter, Kristine Nouveau Ward, Renee Watson, Susan Whiten, Bayley Williams, Dawn Williams, DiAnna Williams, Madison Williams, Adam Woods, and Claudia Yearsley. Additionally, there were 111 attendees via Zoom.

### President Gann called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

President Gann delivered an assessment of the organization's financial and operational status, detailing both the challenges and the measures implemented to address them. He highlighted the significance of transparency and shared an honest account of the organization's financial position:

- **Operating Account:** Improved from earlier in the year with \$130k available and \$25k in savings.
- **AEMD (Additional Event Membership Dues):** A balance of \$5,582.49 remains after Nationals payout, with a focus on building these funds for the following year.
- **Fundraising Efforts:** Acknowledged the critical roles of Heidi Mobley and Cynthia Downing. Emphasized that all funds raised went toward settling past due invoices from the software developer Inventive, without benefiting the organization directly.
- **Copyright Issue:** Revealed the lapse in renewing the copyright license and the costs involved in rectifying this mistake, urging the need to prevent such oversights in the future.
- **Business Office Overhaul:** Commended Sarah Jackson and Tammy Johnson for their roles in the recovery of the office's operations and the hiring of new, talented staff.

He also provided a candid view of the situation with Inventive and the loan ASCA received:

- **Debt to Inventive:** Disclosed that \$225k was owed for what he considered an unsatisfactory product, and despite significant fundraising efforts, the organization faced financial strains due to the contractual agreement with Inventive.
- **Loan for Settlement:** A loan of \$105k facilitated by an ASCA member and their banking connection allowed the organization to negotiate with Inventive for a settlement of \$75k.
- **Loan Repayment:** \$5,700 is being paid each month, where \$5,000 goes towards the loan principal and \$700 towards interest. The Board has approved an additional one-time payment of \$15,000 from reserves to reduce the principal balance. With the current repayment plan, the loan is expected to be fully paid off by December 2024.

Furthermore, he outlined several proactive initiatives taken by the Board:

- **Insurance:** Successfully found better and cheaper insurance coverage.
- **Document Storage:** Transitioned from Iron Mountain to a more cost-effective storage facility.
- **Computer System:** Committed to improving the current system and user interface.
- **Aussie Times:** Plans to reintroduce printed issues in a phased manner, starting with three issues in 2024.
- **Financial Practices:** Improved financial practices by segregating AEMD funds from general operating accounts and commitment to replenishing inappropriately used funds.

President Gann affirmed the organization's stability and positive trajectory, expressing his conviction that ASCA would not face dissolution. He shared his decision not to continue as president in the following year but

expressed pride in his contributions to halting the organization's financial "bleeding." He concluded by thanking the membership and the Board for their trust and support, promising that the organization is moving in a new direction, with changes to be evident starting from the evening of the address.

## Summary of 2022 Membership Meeting

The Executive Secretary read a summary of the Membership Meeting held in 2022 in Bryan, Texas.

## 2025 Stockdog Finals Judge Draw

The Board acknowledged that an oversight occurred at the Business Office regarding the distribution of the questionnaire for potential judges for the 2025 Stockdog Finals. Corrective measures have been implemented. Consequently, the Board has approved a one-time exception to the established judge selection procedures as outlined in the Stockdog Rule Book. The selection draw, which was initially scheduled for this evening, will now be conducted at the Board's meeting in December.

## 2025 Nationals Conformation Judge Draw

In accordance with the Conformation Rules, the Board completed the draw to determine the pool of judges under consideration for hiring for the 2025 Nationals Conformation Show. The selected individuals are as follows:

1. Ginger Abbott (California) – Senior Breeder Judge
2. Lori Acierto (Arizona) – Senior Breeder Judge
3. Margi Floyd (Washington) – Senior Breeder Judge
4. Maarten Walter (Alabama) – Senior Breeder Judge
5. Teena Meadors (Arizona) – Senior Breeder Judge
6. Keli Gaunt (Kentucky) – Senior Breeder Judge
7. Gail Karamalegos (Texas) – Senior Breeder Judge
8. Donna Wright (Arizona) – Senior Breeder Judge
9. Cheryl Padgett (Georgia) – Senior Breeder Judge
10. Cheri Preciado (California) – Senior Breeder Judge
11. Ronnie Bates (Georgia) – Senior Breeder Judge
12. Amy Burnette (Georgia) – Senior Breeder Judge
13. Nannette Newbury (California) – Senior Breeder Judge
14. Susan Rossy (Missouri) – Senior Breeder Judge
15. Shawna Sakal (California) – Senior Breeder Judge
16. Laura Gibson (Texas) – Senior Breeder Judge
17. Susan Harris (California) – Senior Breeder Judge
18. Lisa Ott (Wisconsin) – Approved Breeder Judge
19. Linda Braun (New York) – Senior Breeder Judge

The Conformation Chairperson for the 2025 Nationals will approach the chosen judges to determine their availability and willingness to serve as one of the five judges for the event.

## Presentation from Cynthia Downing

First Vice President Byrne introduced Cynthia Downing to those present. Downing is the current Chair of the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee and comes with a rich background in nonprofit organizations, bringing valuable expertise to the ASCA.

Downing expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to address the meeting and affirmed President Gann's point about the necessity for change in ASCA's operational approach. With a 25-year career managing nonprofit membership associations, Downing has overseen broad-scale organizational functions and recognizes the unique potential within ASCA's membership. She aims to contribute her extensive experience to assist the new Board in steering ASCA on a progressive path.

She proposed the implementation of an annual operational audit, supplementing the financial audit to scrutinize the organization's systems, personnel, record management, and overarching financial policies and procedures. This practice, she asserted, would have prevented ASCA's recent challenges if it had been part of the organization's routine. She plans to introduce this zero-cost audit, conducted by the Board, as a measure to maintain organizational focus and address its evolving needs.

Additionally, Downing emphasized the importance of leadership training for both the Board and affiliates to ensure procedural knowledge and the effective transition of new members into their roles. Additionally, she stressed the need for clear communication strategies, including weekly updates on critical issues, to keep the membership informed and engaged, fostering a vibrant and informed community within ASCA.

Downing presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation to those gathered, outlining the present condition of ASCA, and delineating the objectives for the organization's future development.

### **Slide – ASCA Action Plan: Focus: Fundraising, Communication, Fixing**

This action plan is a collaborative effort, built upon the groundwork laid by the past contributions of the IT Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, and numerous individuals who have dedicated their efforts to ASCA. It is not the vision of a single person; rather, it is a collective endeavor. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has played a role in supporting and shaping ASCA's future.

### **Slide – Strategic Plan Goals:**

- Quality programs to showcase the versatility and working ability of the Aussie.
- Culture: promote an atmosphere of good sportsmanship, volunteerism, and responsibility for the breed and breed image.
- Maintain an independent breed registry.
- Financial health.
- Provide optimal member service.

### **Slide – Goal 1: Quality Programs**

- Improve marketing and communications to ASCA membership.
- Implement public relations campaign to introduce ASCA to the public.
- Collaborate with outside clubs and organizations to increase public awareness.

WHY? Improve member service. Increase participation. Attract sponsorship money.

### **Slide – Goal 2: Culture**

- Recruit new members / increase ASCA revenue.
- Retain existing members.
- Leadership training.

WHY? More revenue = improved member services. Increase participation. More members will attract sponsorship money.

### **Slide – Goal 3: Maintain an Independent Breed Registry**

- Fix the portal (need money / corporate sponsors).
- Increase the number of puppies being registered.
- Develop online services (certified pedigrees, litter announcements, kennel listings).

WHY? Improve member service. Attract sponsorship money. Increase participation.

### **Slide – Goal 4: Financial Health**

- Recruit and retain members.
- Corporate sponsorships.
- Affinity marketing programs.
- Merchandise sales.

WHY? Improve member service. Complete online portal functionality. Replenish ASCA's reserves.

## Slide – ASCA Income

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Dues

- Annual membership
- Lifetime membership

#### Registration

- Individual dog
- Litter
- Kennel

#### Event Fees

- Event sanctioning
- Results submittal
- Additional Event Membership Dues

### SPONSORS / AFFINITY MARKETING

#### PARTNERS

#### Corporate sponsors

- Pay to partner with ASCA
- Receive advertising / publicity
- Receive recognition at Nationals
- Affinity Marketing Partners
- Partner with companies for products or services
- ASCA receives a commission for sales or leads

#### Nationals sponsors

- Class sponsorships
- Other sponsorships

### SALES

#### Merchandise

- Web sales
- Nationals sales

#### Online services

- Certified pedigrees
- Litter announcements
- Kennel listings

#### Advertising

- Aussie Times
- Other

This table outlines our current and future revenue channels, which encompass membership dues, registration and event fees, sponsorships, and income from affinity partnerships and merchandise sales. Progress is gradual, yet there's positive momentum, as evidenced by Dr. Buzby's toe grips—a bestseller in our affinity program—stepping up as a corporate sponsor for the 2024 Nationals Parade of Veterans.

## Slide – Recruit Members

- Give membership applications to every affiliate.
- Incentives for affiliates that recruit the most new members in 2024.
- Encourage breeders to give puppy buyers a “benefits of membership” brochure.
- Annual leadership training for affiliates to emphasize importance of membership.

	<b>CURRENT</b>		<b>GOAL 2024 - 10% INCREASE</b>	
	Jan - Aug 2023	Dues Revenue	8 Months	Dues Revenue
New Single	305	\$6,090	336	\$6,720
New Dual	116	\$2,320	128	\$2,560
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>\$8,410</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>\$9,280</b>

## Slide – Retain Members

- Annual leadership training for incoming affiliate presidents.
- More membership benefits.
- Incentives for affiliates with highest retention rate in 2024.
- “We’re sorry to see you go” postcards to lapsing members.

	<b>CURRENT</b>		<b>GOAL 2024 - 10% INCREASE</b>	
	Jan - Aug 2023	Dues Revenue	8 Months	Dues Revenue
Renew Single	1243	\$24,860	1367	\$27,340
Renew Dual	656	\$13,120	722	\$14,440
Renew Service	2293	\$45,860	2516	\$50,320
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4192</b>	<b>\$83,840</b>	<b>4605</b>	<b>\$92,100</b>

## Slide – Projected New Revenues in 2024

### Projected New Revenues in 2024

		<b>Very Conservative</b>	<b>Moderately Conservative</b>
Sponsorships	Assume 1 @ 25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Affinity Partnership Income		\$23,000	\$35,000
Merchandise Sales		\$10,000	\$20,000
New Member Recruitment	10% Increase	\$800	\$1,200
Membership Retention	10% Increase	\$9,000	\$1,200
<b>Total Projected Revenue</b>		<b>\$67,800</b>	<b>\$107,400</b>



Additional funds generated may contribute towards loan repayment or support various ASCA endeavors, as determined by the Board. It's crucial to understand that our mission isn't purely financial; we are committed to partnering with entities that align with ASCA's values, ensuring that our focus remains on delivering quality and value to our members while simultaneously funding ASCA programs.

#### **Slide – Payments to Inventive**

- \$1.4 million paid to Inventive (including support costs) over 6 years.
- Hemorrhaging stopped April 6, 2023, with final \$75,000 payment.
- \$154,857 Fundraising totals – all applied to Inventive invoices.

#### **Slide – Finish the Portal!**

- IT Committee has fixed what it can.
  - Priority #1: software developer/programming help
  - Priority #2: QA engineer
- \$46,000 budgeted in 2024 / extra money = more portal repairs.
- Expect development to be ongoing; include line item in annual budget.

#### **Slide – Get Finances in Order**

- Repay the original \$105,000 loan – remaining balance is \$87,000.
- \$46,000 in 2024 budget for online portal.
- Hire a bookkeeper ASAP – more transparency for members and compliance with generally accepted accounting procedures.
  - Transparency: ASCA's annual 990 returns on IRS website show income and expenses.
- Business office is fully staffed in 2024.
- 2024 budget includes 3 printed issues of Aussie Times (\$17,713 cost per issue).

#### **Slide – ASCA: Your Club**

HELP US MAKE THIS ACTION PLAN A SUCCESS! HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Buy from ASCA's new affinity partners (links online).
- Refer sponsor leads to ASCA Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee.
- Think about what you post online; what will prospective sponsors see?
- Be patient. Your ASCA Board is working hard to right the ship.

Downing expressed her eagerness to contribute to the organization, particularly by collaborating with the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee to facilitate fundraising efforts. She encouraged those present to engage with ASCA's new affinity program, highlighting that the program's links are accessible on the website and will be featured in future publications. She stressed the importance of this initiative, as it has already begun to accrue commission revenue for ASCA. She also requested that members refer any potential sponsorship opportunities directly to the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee.

A word of caution was given regarding social media conduct. Downing urged members to post responsibly on platforms such as Facebook, considering how a potential sponsor might perceive the content of their comments.

Finally, Downing emphasized a departure from "business as usual," advocating for a shift towards more productive and forward-thinking actions that would benefit ASCA.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Wesen commenced with the financial update, directing attention to the QR code provided to attendees for viewing the budget details. She acknowledged that most of the important points had already been covered by President Gann earlier in the meeting.

A reference was made to the September 2023 ASCA Foundation report, previously unaddressed. The Foundation fund currently holds \$42,347.91, accumulated through member contributions designated to support programs such as junior scholarships, epilepsy research, rescue efforts, and the Ernest Hartnagle Award.

Addressing a common inquiry regarding the financial requirements of ASCA, Wesen specified that the organization operates on an approximate annual budget of \$850,000, which is considered a conservative estimate. There are ongoing efforts to increase this budget to support ASCA's growing activities.

She reminded everyone present that the Treasurer's report is now accessible during the open session of meetings, enhancing transparency and member engagement. Additionally, all related financial reports are available on the member portal, allowing for individual review at any time.

Wesen informed the attendees that the 2022 annual audit report was available at the front table for those interested and had also been uploaded to the portal for wider member access.

## Committee Reports

**Aussie Rescue and Placement Helpline (ARPH)** – Executive Secretary Jaco made several announcements on behalf of ARPH related to their raffle at the Nationals this year.

**Agility** – The Agility Committee report was provided by Chair Claudia Yearsley. She highlighted a roundtable discussion that was organized with 12 agility judges and the committee members in attendance. Yearsley characterized the meeting as highly successful and as having laid the groundwork for a more collaborative relationship going forward. She reported an increase in the number of agility trials hosted across the country, noting that there were 30 additional trials this year. Despite this increase in events, she pointed out that the participation in terms of the number of dogs entered remained consistent with the previous year, as did the number of championships awarded. Yearsley affirmed that the committee is poised to advance into the future with a clear and defined strategy to promote and grow ASCA agility events.

**Conformation** – The Conformation Committee report was provided by Member Elke Philipp. She reported a relatively quiet year in terms of committee activities. Key highlights included the implementation of paperless processes, modifications to the Nationals judge selection protocol, new exhibitor identification restrictions, updates to the premier ribbons for Finals, and a breed select program, which awaits implementation pending necessary programming updates. A proposal to revise the criteria for non-regular breeder judges was not approved by the Board; however, the committee is revisiting the Board's concerns to refine the proposed changes. The committee continues to tackle tasks forwarded by the office and proposed by the membership. Statistics for October 22-23 were provided, with 753 dogs competing in 532 events and numerous championships and titles across various levels, indicating a healthy and active conformation community.

**Dock Jumping** – The Dock Jumping Committee report was provided by Chair Lesli Hill. She reported a record turnout of dogs participating in the dock jumping events at Nationals, particularly with the open dock session. She highlighted the observable growth in the sport, with an increasing number of competitors earning ASCA Dock Jumping titles. The committee is currently reviewing the rule book with the objective of further increasing participation. She also mentioned the encouraging number of clubs currently holding dock jumping trials and the committee's commitment to support these clubs. Additionally, strategies are being developed to encourage more clubs to host dock jumping events, with hopes of expanding the sport within the ASCA community.

**Hall of Fame/Special Recognition** – Board Liaison Denise Creelman provided a report on behalf of Kris Churchill, the current Chair of the Hall of Fame/Special Recognition Committee. Thanks went out to Ann DeChant for her foundational contributions concerning the requirements for the Hall of Fame Excellent (HOFX) sire and dam categories. The committee is actively engaged in discussions about the criteria and processes associated with these prestigious recognitions. Furthermore, they are exploring the possibility of incorporating additional programs to honor special achievements within the ASCA community. Anyone with innovative ideas or constructive suggestions is encouraged to reach out to the committee.

**History** – History Committee Member Ann DeChant reported on recent advancements within the committee's scope of work. She announced the completion and implementation of a nomination form for the ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award, which was utilized for the first time this past year. She reminded members that the form is accessible on the official ASCA website and urged them to nominate deserving individuals. DeChant mentioned the initiation of a new feature in the *Aussie Times*, which will include articles meant to honor and remember influential figures within the ASCA community. She highlighted that membership in the History Committee is not restricted to regional representation but is open to all individuals passionate about preserving the heritage and historical narrative of ASCA.

**Information Technology (IT)** – The IT Committee report was provided by Member Heidi Mobley on behalf of Committee Chair Claire Thomas. Recently, the committee's efforts have been somewhat subdued due to travel and professional commitments. However, they have successfully implemented some minor portal corrections and are in the testing phase. They anticipate launching these enhancements in the coming weeks.

Part of their technical progression involves understanding the portal's coding infrastructure and the developmental pipeline—essentially understanding the process of coding updates from conception to the live production environment. They're compiling comprehensive operational manuals for the Business Office. These guidelines provide step-by-step instructions for essential portal functions, serving as a resource for training new staff and facilitating cross-functional education.

Looking ahead to next year, they are planning a cautious re-engagement with the portal development. Full-scale budget allocation for a development team is not feasible until the outstanding loan is settled. However, they are considering hiring a previous developer part-time to address urgent bug fixes, capitalizing on their existing knowledge of the portal's structure and the intricacies of ASCA's program and business logic. The committee is prioritizing tasks to streamline the developer's focus on the most critical issues. They are also strategizing the decommissioning of outdated systems, which will free up funds for development purposes. Their goal is to stabilize current features, enhance member self-service options, and optimize the business office workflow.

Another goal is to establish test automation. By creating a deep library of regression testing scripts, they can automatically verify that new code doesn't disrupt existing functions. This will reduce the dependence on manual testing and allow the team to quickly identify any problems.

The committee extended gratitude to both the Board and the membership for their understanding regarding portal issues over the past year. They recognize the frustration it has caused and are committed to making significant improvements as soon as possible.

Susan Harris asked about the committee's engagement with potential new developers. Mobley responded, emphasizing the considerable time required for a new developer to become acquainted with the system's comprehensive code history. She noted that the developer currently under consideration is the creator of the existing code, which would drastically cut down the onboarding period. This approach is deemed the most efficient way forward. She assured Harris that should the committee decide to expand the search for additional developers, it would be communicated to all members accordingly.

Rachel Vest sought clarification on whether the development work would be conducted on a project-by-project basis or billed based on time and materials used. Mobley clarified that the work would proceed project by project. The initial focus would be on addressing the critical fixes that are currently causing problems for the office staff. She acknowledged the presence of numerous hard-coded issues within the system that need to be resolved to improve functionality for both members and office operations.

Rachel Vest asked if all functions would be thoroughly approved and tested before any payment is issued. Mobley affirmed that the developer would be compensated on a per-project basis, not hourly, and payment would only be made after all functions have been satisfactorily approved and tested.

An attendee raised concerns regarding the proposed re-engagement of a developer who was part of the original code development team, questioning what would prevent a recurrence of past issues and if this

individual was part of the initial problem. Mobley responded with reassurance, acknowledging the concerns and providing context. She explained that the developer under consideration was the most capable programmer on the original team. Problems escalated after this individual's departure, as subsequent programmers were not as proficient, leading to a cycle of errors and costly fixes. Mobley asserted that if this developer had remained on the team throughout, the outcome would likely have been more favorable, emphasizing that this person was not implicated in the financial difficulties encountered.

President Gann asked about the complications with label and certificate printing. Mobley clarified that, initially, the problem was manageable despite being slow, but it has progressively worsened. She noted the perplexity, considering no changes had been made to the code. She identified the issue as originating from hardcoded elements in the Inventive code, which are challenging to access. Mobley reassured that the IT team hadn't caused these issues, as no changes had been made to the production environment, but only to the initial developmental stages. The team is actively seeking a solution.

**Junior** – The Junior Committee report was provided by Chair Bayley Williams. The committee enhanced the year-end awards to encompass agility and refined the criteria accordingly. A dedicated junior fund has been established, allowing direct donations through the ASCA Foundation. Additionally, a new scholarship program has been introduced to honor Jo Kimes. Despite IT challenges, the committee is making strides with the 500 club for performance programs, planning a paper packet system to bypass programming needs, facilitating juniors in tracking their progress.

**MVA** – MVA (Most Versatile Aussie) Committee Chair Renee Watson provided an update on the committee's recent activities. She described the committee as being relatively quiet and mentioned an openness to welcoming additional members to their ranks. The committee's ongoing task is the careful oversight of the current MVA scoring system, particularly during its application at Nationals. This system is now in its third year of use, and the committee remains committed to ensuring its accuracy and fairness. Watson also reported an encouraging increase in participation, with 50 entrants for the current year compared to 42 from the previous year. When asked about junior participation, she confirmed a positive trend with 5 juniors participating this year, which marks an increase from 3 the prior year. Watson invited members to contribute ideas and reach out to the committee with any suggestions.

**Nationals Advisory Committee** – Nationals Advisory Committee Chair Renee Watson provided an update on the committee's business. Their current priority is putting together the committee for the 2025 Nationals in Winnemucca, Nevada, with Susan Harris serving as the Nationals Chair. Watson extended an invitation to anyone interested in helping with the event to express their interest. The committee is also diligently working on the Nationals handbook, aiming to create a dynamic resource that evolves with the organization's needs and helps guide future committees. Watson noted the ongoing assessment of the Virginia Horse Park as a potential venue for the 2026 Nationals, including the suitability of the site and the availability of dog-friendly livestock. She expressed an interest in community input for sourcing livestock producers in the area.

A question was raised regarding the inclusion of the cost of building arenas for stock in the site costs. Watson confirmed that this is a consideration, as the facility primarily accommodates horses and therefore requires adaptation for livestock through the construction of suitable arenas. She shared the hope that sponsors could assist with this, citing a previous instance where Tractor Supply Company provided panels. In terms of constructing the arenas, Watson acknowledged that assistance would be necessary, and that finding help is part of the challenge when assessing a new site.

**Obedience** – The Obedience Committee report was provided by Chair Betsy Coleman. This was a year of fine-tuning and clarifications within the regulations rather than the introduction of significant new motions. A notable change discussed was the alteration to Novice B eligibility; effective from June 1, 2024, competitors will be limited to one year in Novice B after obtaining their Companion Dog (CD) title. There was a slight increase in the number of obedience trials this year, with 213 compared to the previous year's 203. However, the sport isn't gaining significant new traction, as evidenced by a slight drop in the number of competing dogs—from 545 last year to 518 this year. Coleman pointed out that the same enthusiasts tend to participate year after year, underscoring a stable but not growing community.

**Rally** – No report from the Rally Committee.

**Scent Detection** – The Scent Detection Committee report was provided by Chair Deborah Divich. Since October 2022, the program has undergone a comprehensive overhaul, with updates including the following:

- The establishment of a new rule set, which has been approved by the Board and made accessible on ASCA's website.
- The redesign of all related forms and materials.
- The expansion of the judge program, now boasting 21 regular and 13 provisional judges, with 8 additional applications in process.
- The creation of a guide for affiliates on how to conduct a match, encouraging participation and interest in the program.
- The preparation of a comprehensive packet for affiliates to facilitate the hosting of official trials.

At this year's Nationals, a successful fun match raised \$900 for ASCA, with participation from 11 juniors and a total of 120 people. Committee Member Lynn Hamon recently engaged with participants in Belgium, although it was noted that interest in Europe is currently low due to differing approaches to scent work. The committee's goals include solidifying the processes for sanctioning trials, approving and recording titles, and developing judge education. The committee is optimistic about the prospect of affiliates hosting official trials soon. However, like dock jumping, the tracking and recording of the program will need to be done manually. The committee is currently addressing the logistical challenges associated with this process. Details and further developments are expected to be clarified following a meeting with the Board this week.

**Stockdog** – The Stockdog Committee report was provided by Chair Devona Pierce. She reported a productive year for stockdog events. There were 103 farm trials with 320 participating dogs and 16 ranch trials that resulted in 85 titles this year, as well as 515 stockdog trials with 1126 dogs competing. Efforts to enhance communication have led to the creation of judge and affiliate groups.io lists, in addition to regular updates via the Stockdog Exchange and ASCMembers. The committee engages in extensive email correspondence to maintain open lines of communication. Program development has been a focus, with discussions on expanding the X and M titles for started and open classes, mirroring the advanced level, pending the computer system's capability to support these changes. To improve scoring accuracy, a revision of the G & H Scoresheets was made, and a proposal was submitted to correct scoring omissions by allowing judges to amend blank scores, ensuring competitors receive due points for completed work.

The committee is also contemplating revisions to the judge requirements, acknowledging the difficulty in meeting the current criteria, and is exploring the potential for a more inclusive approach. Pierce emphasized the need for growth and sustainability within the judging community, encouraging qualified individuals to consider becoming stockdog judges. The committee aims to establish a mentorship and education program to cultivate new talent, as the current demographic is aging. The success of a recent judging seminar from Jimmy Hartnagle, which was well-received, has inspired plans to expand its reach next year through video or livestream options.

Lastly, the committee discussed the importance of maintaining a welcoming environment for newcomers and fostering a positive community spirit among competitors.

**Tracking** – Board Liaison Jan Wesen provided a report on behalf of Lisa Klein, the current Chair of the Tracking Committee. The program has successfully added four new judges to its roster and this year we saw the first Australian Shepherd complete the Tracking Champion (TCH) title, which is a notable achievement in the tracking community. The committee is also actively working on updating the rule book, focusing on making revisions to various titles such as the Beginner Tracking Dog (BTD), Tracking Dog Urban (TDU), and Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX), which will likely enhance clarity and structure within the program. Additionally, updates to the Tracking Champion (TCH) rules and the processes, such as the verification form requirement, are being discussed to ensure the program stays current and effectively managed. The tracking program within ASCA is not only growing but also continually improving, which will hopefully lead to increased participation and recognition of the handlers and dogs involved in this challenging canine sport.

## Questions from the Floor

The Board initiated an interactive session, inviting questions from the attendees. For inquiries addressed and resolved prior to this meeting, please refer to the detailed list available [here](#).

A question arose regarding the savings accrued from negotiations with Inventive. The individual acknowledged that Cynthia Downing's presentation partially addressed their question. President Gann clarified that while the savings from the settlement were not substantial, the outcome was the best achievable given the limited leverage at our disposal.

Rachel Vest expressed apprehension regarding the Board's "new direction." She inquired if the Board intended to delegate their directorial responsibilities to Cynthia Downing and if they would adhere to established procedures and protocols. She posed the question: "Are we going to introduce someone new and allow them to manage ASCA?" President Gann suggested that this question would be more appropriately addressed by the incoming president following the Board officer elections scheduled for that evening.

Ann DeChant remarked on the prevalent concern among members about ASCA's stability, acknowledging that a fear of the organization folding has deterred participation in ASCA programs. She emphasized the importance of shifting this mindset and embracing the notion that ASCA is progressing towards a brighter future. DeChant urged the community to actively promote ASCA's initiatives and to work collectively towards bolstering participation and reinvigorating the organization's spirit.

Star Mathis inquired about the rationale behind dedicating funds to the printing of the Aussie Times for the year 2024 considering an outstanding loan that needs to be repaid. This concern was echoed by other members present at the meeting. President Gann acknowledged the importance of this question and indicated that it would be a matter for the incoming Board officers to consider and address in their fiscal planning and prioritization.

Maarten Walter raised a question about the oversight of ASCA's financial commitments, specifically referencing the computer system project when we apparently had money one month and the next, we did not. He sought clarity on the circumstances that led to such an oversight and inquired about the measures that the Board has since implemented to ensure earlier detection and prevention of similar issues in the future.

Cynthia Downing clarified her role in relation to the concerns expressed by Rachel Vest. She emphasized that she does not intend to take over the governance of ASCA, as the responsibility for running the association lies with the Board. Her contribution is in the capacity of a consultant, offering her expertise and resources which the Board may utilize at its discretion. Additionally, in relation to Maarten Walter's question, she suggested the implementation of an annual operational audit, a practice which could have identified the financial discrepancies linked to the computer system project earlier.

A member raised a question regarding the proposition of a virtual rally program. There were apprehensions expressed about the possible adverse effects this could have on our affiliate clubs, many of which are currently facing challenges in attracting sufficient participation in their in-person trials.

Cheryl Padgett highlighted a discrepancy between ASCA's membership offerings as stated on the website and the actual benefits being delivered. The website promises members a printed copy of the Aussie Times upon joining or renewing their membership; however, this commitment has not been met since the publication shifted to an online-only format. She expressed concern that this inconsistency might be influencing members' decisions not to renew their subscriptions. Additionally, she questioned the potential loss of advertising revenue that may have resulted from the discontinuation of the print magazine.

Jennifer Cannon emphasized the importance of unity and progress within the ASCA community, acknowledging that continuous resistance to change could jeopardize the organization's future. She defended Cynthia Downing's contribution, insisting that respect is due for the extensive volunteer work Downing has provided. Cannon clarified that Downing is not in a position to run ASCA as this responsibility lies with the Board. However, she recognized Downing's ability to offer valuable assistance to the club. To support advancements, particularly with the ASCA portal, Cannon proposed an increase in the AEMD (Affiliate Event

Membership Dues) by \$0.50 per entry, suggesting that affiliates could adjust their entry fees by an additional \$1 to offset this increment, thereby contributing to the necessary technological improvements.

Laura Gibson addressed concerns about ASCA being characterized as a “sinking ship”, challenging this narrative. She acknowledged that while the Board made an unfavorable financial decision by investing in a flawed contract, this misstep does not define the club's overall health. She stressed that ASCA is not in a state of decline, but rather, is actively seeking new ways to manage its resources and continue its mission.

## New Business

No new business was brought forward.

## Announcements

In concluding the meeting, the directors delivered heartfelt announcements:

They expressed profound appreciation to the membership for their unwavering dedication and support, which has been instrumental in the success of ASCA's programs and initiatives. The contributions and sponsorships provided by the members were especially highlighted, with acknowledgment that such support has been the cornerstone of ASCA's sustainability.

The directors also applauded the members for their interest in ASCA's governance, encouraging those interested to consider a more direct role by pursuing a position on the Board. This would not only offer valuable insight into ASCA's operations but also contribute to the richness of our collective dialogue and decision-making processes, ultimately strengthening the community.

A salute was given to the junior members, whose exceptional participation in various programs deserves special recognition. Anticipation for the upcoming banquet was voiced, promising a memorable celebration with the presentation of special awards.

Gratitude was extended to the departing directors for their commitment and contributions during their tenure, with a specific note of thanks directed to Rick Gann for his leadership as president.

The directors closed with wishes for an outstanding Nationals experience and expressed eagerness to see continued involvement at next year's event in Nebraska.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.**

## ASCA Board Meeting Minutes

### National Specialty: Sunday, October 29, 2023

The Board's annual meeting at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, from October 29-November 4, 2023.

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets (via Zoom), Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director David Clayton, Incoming Director Lynda Hardin (via Zoom), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** Incoming Director Jillian Ward.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.**

## Committee Status Reports

This topic was held in Executive Session from 1:12 pm to 2:20 pm. Liaisons provided updates to the Board, detailing the current operations and progress of their respective committees. They also highlighted any ongoing issues or projects that are in the pipeline, ensuring the Board remains fully informed.

## Artificially Altered Dog's Appearance

This topic was held in Executive Session from 2:20 pm to 2:34 pm. The Board deliberated on an issue involving the artificially altered appearance of a dog.

## Meeting Attendance

The Board engaged in a discussion to clarify their priorities and responsibilities at Nationals, especially concerning their presence at the Finals and other events. Gann explained the historical context of Board participation in the Finals. Wesen mentioned the past goal of scheduling Finals on separate days.

Sims highlighted the importance of the Board's visible support during Finals. Creelman proposed that Board members should attend the Finals receptions, with the receptions and meetings being scheduled to avoid conflicts. Sims suggested Board liaisons for each program should assist at their respective Finals and recommended an additional day dedicated to Board meetings.

Byrne stressed the need to show appreciation for members, recognizing their vital contributions to the organization. McCabe suggested revising the Director Handbook to reflect that while the presence of committee liaisons and Board members at Finals is ideal, the Board must also remain available for emergency meetings. She proposed scheduling meetings towards the end of Nationals, typically on Saturday and Sunday.

Gann agreed on setting specific meeting dates and emphasized establishing a priority list for the Board, including emergency issues, Board meetings, and attendance at award ceremonies and Finals events for all programs. Byrne proposed revisiting this topic after further reflection. Gann suggested imposing a deadline to ensure timely resolution, and Busquets concurred, advocating for careful consideration of the wording.

McCabe and Byrne committed to drafting a proposal for the December 14 meeting, addressing these concerns and suggestions.

## Random Draw for 2025 Stockdog Finals Judges

Due to a miscommunication with the Business Office, the Stockdog Finals Judge questionnaires were not sent to the judges as planned. The questionnaires will be emailed out this week, enabling the Board to conduct the judge selection draw at the December meeting. However, an exception must be made to the current rules which require the draw to be done at the Annual Membership Meeting.

### BD.23.112 Exception for 2025 Stockdog Finals Draw Procedure

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

**Motioned by Byrne to make an exception to the draw procedure for 2025 Stockdog Finals Judges due to an omission regarding the questionnaires being sent to prospective judges. Seconded by Creelman.**

## Loan Remainder

The Board revisited their deliberations on allocating the surplus funds from the loan initially obtained to settle the debt with Inventive, currently held in the Guaranty Bank account.



Gann clarified that maintaining a minimum balance of \$10,000 in the account leaves \$16,000 available for use or reserve. McLellan proposed applying \$15,000 of this amount towards the loan repayment. Byrne specified that this lump sum payment would be in addition to the regular monthly installments of \$5,000.

Gann also noted an issue with the recent loan payment, which was not processed due to complications with the Bryan mail system. As a result, he announced plans to transition to electronic payments to avoid similar issues in the future.

#### BD.23.113 Loan Remainder Allocation

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

**Motioned by McLellan to make an additional \$15,000.00 payment to the loan from Guaranty Bank with the monthly payment on November 15. Seconded by Byrne.**

### Banking Concerns

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 3:10 pm to 3:36 pm. The Board contemplated a possible change of banks. Additionally, McLellan proposed making Nationals a separate LLC under ASCA.

### ASCA Business Office

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 3:36 pm to 4:03 pm. The Board discussed staffing needs and workload management at the Business Office. They also addressed operational efficiencies, with suggestions to standardize forms and potentially revert to manual systems for tracking new program points.

### System Liaison Report

System Liaison Wesen updated the Board that the IT Committee had reached out to a previous developer who expressed limited availability. Mobley is scheduled to present the IT Committee's report at the membership meeting. The Board is currently considering a budget of \$3600 per month for system upgrades. Until the funding is secured, the committee is encountering difficulties in advancing the project.

Gann brought up that another developer had volunteered to assist but noted the IT Committee's reluctance to engage with them and sought clarification on this matter. The committee expressed a preference to initially hire someone familiar with the current system to address bug fixes. They believe bringing on a new developer, who could contribute to enhancements, would be more effective after these initial issues are resolved.

Gann inquired about the status of the penetration testing, which was supposed to be conducted by the IT Committee Chair's employer and Wesen said she would get an update for the Board.

### System Liaison

Gann asked if Wesen wished to continue in her role as System Liaison. Wesen confirmed her interest, citing the significant effort she had invested in familiarizing herself with the project and the value of her acquired knowledge. McCabe also showed interest in assuming this position. The Board decided to suspend further discussion on this topic until the Friday meeting, following the seating of the new Board.

**The meeting was postponed at 4:24 pm.**

## National Specialty: Monday, October 30, 2023

The Board's annual meeting at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, from October 29-November 4, 2023.

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets (via Zoom, left at 3:38 pm), Secretary Ann McCabe (joined at 3:30 pm), Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman (left at 3:38 pm), Director Carol Gerken (left at 3:38 pm), Director Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director David Clayton, Incoming Director Lynda Hardin (via Zoom), Incoming Director Jillian Ward (joined at 1:55 pm), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 1:17 pm.**

## 2024 ASCA Budget

During the meeting, Treasurer Wesen presented the 2024 ASCA organizational budget, a collaborative effort primarily involving McLellan and Byrne. The budget includes a \$5,000 monthly line item for loan repayment, projected to be paid off by mid-2025, with the possibility of an earlier payoff by the end of 2024 if additional payments can be made. The computer system budget is approximately \$3,600 monthly, with hopes to increase this based on financial capacity. The budget also accounts for three printed editions of the Aussie Times, subject to reassessment.

A discussion was held about publishing the budget details to the membership. Wesen noted that while the budget had previously been shared verbally, it had not been published in its entirety. The consensus was to share it with members for transparency. McLellan suggested adding more detail to the computer budget section for clarity.

The Board discussed differentiating contract labor from staff compensation to stay within the budgeted 30% limit for staff compensation.

Wesen mentioned that the budget does not currently include AEMD repayment, as other items are prioritized. Gann pointed out this topic would be addressed in the membership meeting, questioning the timeline for replenishing the AEMD. Sims agreed to check if this could be included in the PowerPoint presentation for the meeting. The Board decided to keep the AEMD line item in the budget as a reminder for future action, despite it being projected at zero for now.

Byrne explained that the \$35k office expense in the budget covers daily office necessities like paper, along with other miscellaneous expenses including security, storage, janitorial services, employee appreciation, and miscellaneous building supplies.

The budget was revised by Byrne to reflect these discussions and priorities. The Executive Secretary will include the updated budget in the member questions document for the upcoming membership meeting.

### BD.23.114 Approval of 2024 ASCA Budget

**Motion carried** (8-0) - Approved: Byrne, Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, McLellan, Sims, Wesen.

Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: McCabe.

**Motioned by Wesen to approve the 2024 ASCA budget “living document” as presented. Seconded by Sims.**

## State of the ASCA Business Office

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 2:08 pm to 3:36 pm. The Board was joined by Office Manager Sarah Jackson to report on the state of the ASCA Business Office. It was requested that she create a comprehensive list of office needs by November 30.

## Officer Elections

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 3:35 pm to 5:00 pm. Outgoing Directors Busquets, Creelman, and Gerken left the meeting. The Board deliberated on the officer elections, deciding to discuss them ahead of the scheduled Wednesday meeting.

**The meeting was postponed at 5 pm.**

## National Specialty: Tuesday, October 31, 2023

The Board's annual meeting at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, from October 29-November 4, 2023.

**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 Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director David Clayton, Incoming Director Lynda Hardin, Incoming Director Jillian Ward (joined at 7:27 am), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 7:05 am.**

## Follow Up to Officer Elections Discussion

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 7:05 am to 8:09 am. The Board followed up on their officer elections discussion from Monday's meeting.

## Meeting with Cynthia Downing

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 8:09 am to 8:57 am. The Board was joined by Cynthia Downing, Chair of ASCA's Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee, to discuss her upcoming presentation during the membership meeting.

**The meeting was postponed at 8:57 am.**

## National Specialty: Tuesday, October 31, 2023

The Board's annual meeting at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, from October 29-November 4, 2023.

**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 Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director David Clayton, Incoming Director Jillian Ward, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** Incoming Director Lynda Hardin.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.**

## Meeting with Junior Committee Chair

The Board was joined by Bayley Williams, Chair of ASCA's Junior Committee, who brought forward issues currently facing the committee.

A primary topic was the challenge in implementing a 500 Club for performance programs, like the existing structure for junior showmanship. The computer system's limitations have hindered this implementation. To circumvent these issues, the committee devised an alternative method involving juniors tracking their points

through packets, verified by event secretaries, and submitted to the Business Office for verification and certificate issuance. While this solution has received committee approval, it awaits a green light from the Business Office, with the committee prepared to handle all related administrative tasks.

Gann said that the Board recently emphasized the need to incorporate these new programs from the committees and for the Business Office to make them work. However, to proceed, a formal motion from the committee is required.

McCabe informed Williams that efforts are underway to recruit new members to the committee, addressing the issue of current members who are less active. We don't want to lose volunteers, but it is essential to have actively participating members to drive the committee's work forward.

## Meeting with 2024 Nationals Site Representative

The Board was joined by Jana Sittler, GILCA Show Manager from Fonner Park in Grand Island, Nebraska—location of the 2024 National Specialty—to discuss accommodations for the event.

Sittler expressed Grand Island's enthusiasm for hosting the event, especially given its significance as the 50th anniversary of the ASCA Nationals. She highlighted Fonner Park's excellent facilities, including 160 full RV hookups, a bathhouse, and additional electrical hookups near the stockdog arenas. The weather in early October is expected to be pleasant. She mentioned travel logistics, noting that Omaha's larger airport is about 1.5 to 2 hours away, and while Grand Island has an airport, its suitability for transporting dogs was uncertain. Lincoln's airport, approximately 1.5 hours away, does not accommodate animal flights.

Creelman asked about setting up a tent between the sheep area and the Thompson Arena, which Sittler confirmed could be arranged, with cost depending on size. She also mentioned the availability of picnic tables that can be moved around the site.

Addressing a question from McCabe, Sittler assured her that Fonner Park has ample chain-link fenced areas that could be repurposed for off-leash dog zones.

Regarding the contract's food and alcohol clauses, Sittler clarified that while there are restrictions within scheduled areas, these do not extend to campgrounds. Fonner Park is flexible with outside caterers and only requests the use of koozies or similar for discreet alcohol consumption to maintain their liquor license.

Sittler also mentioned the flexibility in placing food trucks and coffee vendors around the buildings, and the availability of caterers for nightly dinners without minimum order requirements.

The discussion also covered wildlife concerns, particularly for the ducks. Secure overnight housing, like a barn, was proposed, and Gerken offered to provide additional dogs for overnight stock guarding. Gerken also announced a local arrangement for duck rearing and post-event care.

Regarding the arenas, Sittler confirmed the availability of shade cloth and mentioned the use of dust-free dirt for agility arenas, with a single outdoor ring for pre-trials. Conformation events will feature artificial turf, and the MVA evaluation ring could be accommodated in the spacious conformation building.

McCabe asked about involving local 4H students, which Sittler indicated could be possible outside of school hours.

Sittler promised to compile a list of nearby restaurants with various price ranges for the exhibitors and is working on securing discounted blocks at pet-friendly hotels. Lastly, she highlighted the ample availability of stalls on-site.

**The meeting was postponed at 7 pm.**

## National Specialty: Wednesday, November 1, 2023

The Board's annual meeting at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, from October 29-November 4, 2023.

**In attendance:** Susan Byrne, David Clayton, Rick Gann, Lynda Hardin, Ann McCabe, Jodie McLellan, Dawna Sims, Jillian Ward, Jan Wesen, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**The meeting was called to order at 9:55 pm.**

### ASCA Board Officer Elections

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 9:55 pm to 10:05 pm. The following is the slate of officers for the Board of Directors from November 2023 to October 2024.

President Susan Byrne  
1st Vice President Rick Gann  
2nd Vice President Dawna Sims  
Secretary Ann McCabe  
Treasurer Jodie McLellan  
Director David Clayton  
Director Lynda Hardin  
Director Jillian Ward  
Director Jan Wesen  
Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco  
Election Secretary Sarah Jackson  
Membership Secretary Sarah Jackson

**The meeting was postponed at 10:05 pm and the meeting of the ASCA Foundation was called to order.**

### ASCA Foundation Board Officer Elections

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

BD.23.115 2023-2024 ASCA Foundation Board

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: 9 (Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen).  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Wesen to approve the slate of officers for ASCA as the same officers for the ASCA Foundation. Seconded by McCabe.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 pm.**

## National Specialty: Friday, November 3, 2023

The Board's annual meeting at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, from October 29-November 4, 2023.

**In attendance:** President Susan Byrne, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Dawna Sims, Treasurer Jodie McLellan (in person until 2:45 pm then via Zoom), Secretary Ann McCabe, Director David Clayton, Director Lynda Hardin, Director Jillian Ward, Director Jan Wesen, Counsel David Schleicher (from 1:28 pm to 2:50 pm) and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Byrne called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.**

## Meeting with Nationals Advisory Committee

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 1:07 pm to 2:01 pm. The Board was joined by representatives from the Nationals Advisory Committee: Denise Creelman, Laura Gibson, Rachel Vest, and Renee Watson, along with Rick Hardin and Susan Harris, the 2025 Nationals Chairperson. Discussions covered the announcement seeking volunteers for the 2025 Nationals Committee and the facility contract's provisions, the potential Virginia site for future Nationals, a proposal for a five-year contract with a ribbon provider for Nationals, and the Nationals Advisory Committee's relationship with the Board.

## Legal Discussions

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 2:01 pm to 2:50 pm. The Board was joined by ASCA's Counsel, David Schleicher, to engage in a discussion regarding the ongoing legal matters currently facing the organization. The Board also signed confidentiality agreements prepared by Counsel.

## Norms

The Board reviewed their established norms, reaffirming their commitment to adhere to these standards. Wesen offered valuable insights into the historical context, detailing the process followed by a previous Board in formulating these guiding principles.

## 2025 Nationals Committee

The Board continued their discussion about the call for members of the 2025 Nationals Committee.

Byrne raised concerns about potential dissatisfaction if the originally promised reimbursements were altered later. Sims concurred, noting that committee members might feel deprived of something previously offered. Wesen supported adding a disclaimer at the beginning of the announcement, clarifying that reimbursements would depend on the event's final approved budget.

Sims suggested refining job descriptions to indicate that lodging and meals would be covered for "up to" a specified number of days. Clayton, on the other hand, advised that rather than dictating specific changes, the Board should direct the Nationals Advisory Committee to aim for an 8-10% profit margin to offset committee member reimbursements, allowing the committee to devise their own strategies to achieve this.

The Board generally favored Clayton's idea, but the immediate challenge was how to phrase the announcement effectively. Ward proposed a tiered payment system for committee members based on their roles, offering a fixed stipend for them to use how they choose. Byrne supported this, adding that the wording should allow committee members to opt out of compensation if desired.

Wesen suggested forwarding this concept to the Nationals Advisory Committee for consideration. Hardin and McCabe supported the stipend approach, with McCabe emphasizing the need for clear delineation of the working days for each role, beyond mere presence on site. She also backed Sims' recommendation for the "up to" phrasing.

Gann highlighted the necessity for a more in-depth dialogue with the Nationals Advisory Committee to better define their role and responsibilities within ASCA. He agreed with the wording modifications proposed for the announcement. McClellan echoed Gann's sentiments on addressing broader issues with the committee and concurred with the suggested wording adjustments. The Board resolved to present their proposed amendments to the Nationals Advisory Committee and planned to further explore this issue in their upcoming November Zoom meeting.



## System Liaison

The Board appoints the System Liaison annually at the National Specialty Meeting. This person performs the following functions:

1. Oversee the ASCA Website and supervise the ASCA Webmaster.
2. Present a computer system strategy to the Board at the National Specialty each year.
3. Receive input concerning the system strategy from the Board as an aid to developing this strategy.
4. Once approved and budgeted by the Board, supervise implementing the strategy.

McCabe and Wesen initially showed interest in the position. However, after McCabe consulted with the Webmaster, it was recommended that a new Board member take on the role to ensure consistency over the next three years. In light of this, McCabe proposed Clayton as an ideal candidate for the position, a suggestion Wesen concurred with. Clayton graciously accepted the role.

### BD.23.116 2023-2024 System Liaison

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: 9 (Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen). Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Wesen to appoint David Clayton as the System Liaison for 2023-204. Seconded by McCabe.**

## Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee

The Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee, led by Cynthia Downing, consists of dedicated ASCA members personally recruited by her. The Board is now moving to officially formalize this committee. To ensure transparency and oversight, the committee will be mandated to conduct discussions via a Groups.io forum, which Board members can monitor. Additionally, prospective new members of the committee will need to apply through the official form available on the website and will be subject to approval by the Board.

### BD.23.117 Formalize Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: 9 (Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen). Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Wesen to formalize the Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee as a standing committee of ASCA and to adopt the current members. Moving forward, new members will need to apply using the official application form and be approved by the Board. The Committee will also need to choose a Board Liaison. Seconded by Sims.**

## Entry Forms Change

From June to October 2023, we tried a process where affiliates were asked to submit entry forms only from conformation and junior events, while holding onto entry forms from other programs for one year. The response from our affiliates and the Business Office was overwhelmingly supportive. Consequently, the Board decided to adopt this approach as standard policy.

Accuracy and clarity in trial and show reports remain a priority. Show/trial secretaries bear the responsibility for ensuring information is complete and correct. Prompt cooperation with any information requests from the Business Office is also crucial.

### BD.23.118 Change to Entry Form Requirement

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: 9 (Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen). Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Wesen that ASCA Affiliate Clubs only be required to submit conformation and junior entry forms. The Show/Trial Secretary will be required to retain all other entry forms for a period of one year. Seconded by Sims.**

## Meeting with Scent Detection Committee

The Board was joined by members of the Scent Detection Committee: Chairperson Deborah Divich, Liz Bernstein, and Lynn Hamon. Divich reported a comprehensive overhaul and revitalization of the entire program over the past year, bringing it to a stage where finalizing back-end processes is now the focus. While there's keen interest in hosting trials, logistical coordination between the ASCA Business Office and the committee is necessary first. Divich acknowledged her role in managing results, similar to Heidi Mobley's responsibilities for Dock Jumping, and recognized the significant workload involved with the expected high volume of trials.

McCabe emphasized the importance of establishing clear rules for sanctioning events and trusting affiliates to adhere to these standards, rather than approving each trial site individually. Divich concurred with this approach.

Highlighting the need to minimize additional workload for the Business Office, McCabe suggested creating a comprehensive sanctioning packet for clubs to complete and submit along with their sanctioning fee. This would streamline the process, enabling the office to issue a sanctioning number and distribute necessary trial paperwork to the club. McCabe offered to develop a flow chart detailing the sanctioning and results processing steps. Divich added that Mobley is assisting her in developing a master spreadsheet for tracking results.

The committee aims to have all components, including the rule book and program, ready by December 31, 2023, for the Board's final approval. Board members expressed their strong support and appreciation for the committee's dedication and effort in successfully launching and managing this program.

## New Business

Byrne proposed a revision to the policy concerning the timing of employee annual reviews. She suggested shifting these reviews to align with the Nationals meeting, given that officer changes occur annually at this time. This adjustment would provide the new supervisor of the Office Manager, Business Office staff, and the Executive Secretary with a more substantial period to assess employee performance, ensuring a fair and comprehensive evaluation. Byrne's proposal includes conducting performance evaluations before the Nationals meeting, with salary increases effective from January 1, instead of the current July 1 date. This change would also benefit budgeting processes, allowing for a more accurate yearly financial plan. Byrne asked the Board to consider this proposal for future discussion. She noted that for 2024, this would mean two evaluations: one in spring and another at the Nationals meeting.

Regarding Christmas bonuses, Clayton inquired about their issuance this year. Byrne confirmed that bonuses, as stipulated in the policy book, would be distributed by December 1. It was observed that the current accounts list lacks a specific line item for bonuses. Byrne clarified that bonuses are categorized as non-wage compensation and are subject to taxes.

Byrne also informed the Board that the first interview for a new bookkeeper is scheduled for the following week.

Finally, it was requested that the Executive Secretary compile a contact list of all Board members and upload it to a spreadsheet in the Board's Google Drive for easy access.

**The meeting was postponed at 4:01 pm.**

## National Specialty: Saturday, November 30, 2023

The Board's annual meeting at the ASCA National Specialty was held in person in Bryan, Texas, from October 29-November 4, 2023.



**In attendance:** President Susan Byrne, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Dawna Sims, Treasurer Jodie McLellan (via Zoom), Secretary Ann McCabe, Director Jillian Ward, Director Jan Wesen (left at 9:33 am), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco (via Zoom).

**Absent:** Director David Clayton and Director Lynda Hardin.

**President Byrne called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.** Notes were taken by McCabe.

## Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 8:36 am to 9:51 am. The Board deliberated on a conflict resolution request.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am.**

## November 16, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm Central.

**In attendance:** President Susan Byrne, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Dawna Sims, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jodie McLellan, Director David Clayton (joined at 7:25 pm), Director Lynda Hardin, Director Jillian Ward, Director Jan Wesen, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

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

**President Byrne called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.**

## Registration Request

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:08 pm to 6:12 pm.

BD.23.121 Registration of Puppy from Artificial Insemination Litter

**Motion carried** (8-0) - Approved: Byrne, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Clayton.

**Motioned by Wesen to accept the puppy out of Rocking-A Sequoya into ASCA's registry without DNA parentage verification to support the registration. Seconded by Hardin.**

Comments/Rationale: An exception is being made due to the age of the semen. It's important that we don't lose old dogs that had their DNA on file with the previous company and aren't able to be verified now. The Board is making a special exception in recognition of the unique circumstances surrounding the age of the semen. It's important to ensure that the genetic legacy of older dogs, whose DNA was previously recorded with the former company, is preserved in our registry.

Affected: The dog's owner, ASCA Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## ASCA & AKC DNA Markers

Branching off from the previous topic, McCabe noted that there's a potential upcoming alignment between the DNA markers used by ASCA and AKC. This development might necessitate a review of our policies, particularly considering the acceptance of AKC DNA if it aligns with our standards.

## Judge Application

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:12 pm to 6:23 pm.

### JA.23.20 November Judge Applicants

**Motion carried** (8-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Clayton.

### **Motion by President Byrne to approve the following list of judge applicants.**

Phillip Peart (Utah) – Non-Regular Breeder Judge

Comments/Rationale: These judges have met the requirements of the program they are applying to judge for and have the recommendation of the program's committee, when appropriate. When called to a vote Directors may approve the entire list, may approve some and disapprove some, not vote, or abstain by so stating in a vote sent to the Executive Secretary. The "not vote" or "abstain" options can apply to the entire list or specified individuals.

Affected: The judge applicants, the ASCA Business Office, the ASCA Webmaster, ASCA Affiliates, and exhibitors in ASCA programs.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

**Moved to Open Session at 6:23 pm.** President Byrne welcomed the members listening, introduced those present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

## October 2023 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McLellan presented the financial summary for October 2023. She noted that the Profit and Loss statement was received only today, limiting time for detailed review. The balance has been stable, hovering above \$100,000, with the current checking account balance at \$114,000. However, there's been minimal growth observed. A consistent monthly loan repayment of \$5,000 is ongoing, and a closer examination of areas for financial improvement is planned.

The loan's current balance stands at \$67,000. An additional payment of \$15,000 was made at the start of November alongside the regular \$5,000 installment. McLellan projected that if the payment pattern continues, including utilizing an available \$11,000 being held in the account with Guaranty Bank, the loan could be cleared by November 2024, offering financial flexibility for the year. She mentioned that a late fee issue related to Chase fraud alerts was resolved, ensuring future transactions happen smoothly.

McLellan reported on two specific accounts: the ASCA Savings Account (\$25,000) and the ASCA Foundation Account (\$41,000). The savings account earns minimal interest, and the foundation account, being a checking account, accrues no interest. After consultation with ASCA's Chase liaison, McLellan suggested exploring higher-yield investment options like CDs and money market accounts, noting better rates (up to 5.45%) available elsewhere. She proposed considering short-term CDs or high-interest savings accounts for better fund management, ensuring easy access and transferability.

McLellan revisited the policy of conducting annual financial audits, a practice in place since 2013, costing approximately \$5,000 annually. While these yearly audits are not mandated by law, they have been adopted as standard practice within ASCA, particularly in response to a historical incident involving embezzlement by a former Office Manager. She suggested conducting these audits at less frequent intervals, potentially every two or five years, as a strategic measure to balance fiscal responsibility with effective financial oversight.

McLellan recommended integrating the Nationals account into QuickBooks, enhancing budget tracking and accounting efficiency. She mentioned that the new bookkeeper, with his expertise, could facilitate this

transition, and that an online version of QuickBooks could be operational by year-end. A personal visit to Texas is planned by her to work with the new bookkeeper and gain a better understanding of ASCA's QuickBooks.

Sims expressed strong support for the idea of moving funds into higher-yield investments, agreeing that it's a more efficient management of the currently underutilized funds. McLellan reassured that the proposed setup would allow easy and flexible fund transfers.

#### BD.23.122 October 2023 Treasurer's Report

**Motion carried** (7-0-1) - Approved: Byrne, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: McLellan. Absent: Clayton.

**Motioned by Sims to approve the October 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Wesen.**

### System Liaison's Report

System Liaison Clayton was not present at this point of the meeting, and as a result, was not able to deliver his report at the scheduled time. However, he joined the meeting later and did provide his report subsequently. Details of his report can be found towards the end of these meeting minutes.

### Utilizing Committees and Liaisons Effectively

Sims called for reinforcement of established procedures involving committees and liaisons, acknowledging that last year's chaotic circumstances led to a deviation from this system. She reminded the Board of the invaluable expertise and insights that committees offer in decision-making and stressed the need to respect and leverage their knowledge fully. She also highlighted the significance of using liaisons effectively to maintain clear and structured communication, urging the Board to prioritize this approach in the upcoming year.

Wesen concurred with the idea of returning to the standard procedure, underscoring the essential role of liaisons in connecting with committees. She expressed openness to direct communication between Board members and committees, provided that liaisons are kept informed. She stressed the importance of ensuring that any Board-related topics impacting committees are first discussed within the respective committees before any Board decisions.

Ward linked the topic of confidentiality to the current discussion, drawing from her experience as the liaison for the 2024 Nationals Committee. She clarified that her role primarily involves relaying information between the committee and the Board, maintaining that her personal opinions should be reserved for Board discussions, not external conversations. Ward emphasized the importance of Board members recognizing and respecting their distinct roles and responsibilities. She advocated for this practice as essential for preserving the unity and integrity of the organization and the Board itself.

In conclusion, the Board collectively acknowledges the vital importance of adhering to the established procedures involving the effective use of committees and liaisons. Moving forward, the Board commits to respecting and fully utilizing the knowledge and insights of ASCA's committees, ensuring that they are consulted and involved in relevant decision-making processes. Additionally, the Board will strive to maintain clear communication channels, with liaisons playing a pivotal role in facilitating interactions between the Board and committees.

### 2024 National Specialty Budget

The Board reviewed the budget for the 2024 National Specialty to be held in Grand Island, Nebraska. Ward informed the Board that, except for the yet-to-be-finalized figures for livestock, the Nationals Committee has confirmed the budget as ready. She expressed confidence in the adequacy of the budget for a successful event.

Byrne highlighted the discrepancy between the projected income and expenses in the budget, indicating a need for detailed analysis.

Sims suggested incorporating a profit margin of 5-10% into the budget, starting on a positive note financially. She emphasized that this could provide a buffer and solidify financial planning.

Ward proposed that the Board formulate a clear direction for the Nationals Advisory Committee regarding the Board's vision for profitability, aligning with the committee's request for guidance.

McCabe expressed optimism about a significant increase in entries for 2024 based on current indications, which could positively impact the budget.

Wesen advocated for a conservative budgeting approach, emphasizing the importance of a learning curve for the organization in refining our budgeting skills. She expressed reservations about setting a strict profit margin.

McLellan supported the idea of directing the committee to include a 5-10% profit in the budget, stressing the need for the event to be more than just a balanced budget exercise.

Byrne acknowledged the challenges in budgeting for a new location, suggesting that while a 5-10% profit could be achievable, the current budget reflects many unknowns. She proposed either approving the preliminary budget or returning it for revision with the suggested profit margin.

Ward agreed with the general sentiment and recommended allowing the committee to devise solutions to achieve the desired profit margin, emphasizing a business-oriented approach to managing the event.

The Board discussed the possibility of approving the budget or returning it to the Nationals Committee with instructions to incorporate the desired profit margin. Wesen and Byrne expressed the need for a more thorough review of the revised budget before approval, leading to a motion to table the budget approval for a later date.

#### BD.23.123 Table Approval of 2024 Nationals Budget

**Motion carried** (8-0) - Approved: Byrne, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Clayton.

**Motioned by Sims to table the approval of the 2024 Nationals budget until the Board has more information to review and make an educated decision. Seconded by Wesen.**

### 2025 Nationals Committee

The Board continued their review of the 2025 Nationals Committee Member job descriptions and agreements, focusing on clarifying and refining the language used in the announcement.

Byrne highlighted the need for the 2025 Nationals Chairperson to select a liaison to facilitate effective communication with the Nationals Committee.

McCabe pointed out that the proposed revisions should be referred to the National Advisory Committee for their input. She recalled a previous conversation with the committee at Nationals, where they agreed to include a statement indicating that all terms were subject to Board approval of the Nationals budget. She addressed the Board's concerns about the wording of reimbursement promises, mentioning Sims' suggestion of including "up to" language for the number of days and other wording concerns from McLellan.

Gann informed the Board that the Nationals Advisory Committee intended to appoint a liaison during their meeting that night, which would aid in the communication process.

Byrne agreed to forward the current edits to the committee, allowing them to provide their insights and make any additional edits they deem necessary. McCabe emphasized that the Board needs to be comfortable with the edits before presenting them to the committee for incorporation.

Byrne concluded that once the committee works on the revisions, the announcement will return to the Board for final approval, ensuring a collaborative process in finalizing the job descriptions and agreements.

## Membership Committee

McLellan opened a discussion on the creation of a Membership Committee, emphasizing the need for a thorough understanding of current membership figures and engagement strategies. She highlighted the work of the Board Marketing Subcommittee on this topic and suggested the formation of a separate committee focused on reengaging and expanding the membership base.

McClellan proposed sending a personalized thank you note to every member and affiliate club, acknowledging their support through the challenging year. She envisioned a message of gratitude signed by all Board members, weighing the option of a postcard for cost-effectiveness. She provided a cost estimate for this initiative of around \$7,000.

McLellan raised the question, “What do we get as members?” acknowledging the current struggle to provide tangible member benefits. She suggested updating the membership brochure and including stickers in the thank you cards as a way to enhance the member experience. She also proposed offering ASCA Board members’ participation in affiliate meetings, either in person or via Zoom, to foster direct communication and gather valuable insights from affiliates.

Byrne appreciated McLellan’s research and efforts, suggesting further exploration of these ideas, especially the logistics of the thank you card mailing. McLellan clarified that the quoted price from the company included complete handling of the mailing process.

Byrne also expressed support for the idea of Board members attending affiliate meetings as guests.

Ward acknowledged the significant cost of the thank you card initiative but expressed her strong passion for enhancing membership benefits. She supported the idea of forming a Board subcommittee to delve deeper into this area and volunteered to participate.

McLellan recommended postponing immediate action to explore various options and discuss them via email. She emphasized the importance of recognizing members through multiple avenues, including potential email communications.

## Employee Evaluation and Raise Timeframes

Byrne proposed significant adjustments to the schedule for conducting annual employee performance evaluations and implementing salary increases. She recommended changing the annual employee evaluations and salary increase timelines. Traditionally, evaluations are done in early spring for salary increases effective July 1. She suggested shifting evaluations to coincide with the Nationals meeting, with salary increases effective January 1. For 2024, she proposed conducting two evaluations – one in spring and one at the Nationals – to facilitate the transition. Subsequently, evaluations would occur annually at the Nationals.

Hardin inquired if evaluations would be completed earlier in the week before the new Board is seated. Byrne confirmed this, noting the importance of allowing the outgoing Board to complete evaluations based on their full year of experience with the employees.

Byrne emphasized the need for a fair evaluation process, particularly for employees who would otherwise be assessed by a newly appointed liaison with limited interaction. She also highlighted the advantage of aligning salary increases with the budgeting cycle for a full fiscal year.

McCabe asked whether the staff had been informed of these proposed changes and had provided their input. Byrne confirmed that she had discussed it with the Office Manager, who found the new schedule logical, particularly for budgeting purposes.

McCabe sought clarification on salary adjustments during the transition year, with raises at both the spring meeting and Nationals. Byrne clarified that raises given at the 2024 spring meeting would be effective until January 1, 2025, and those given at the 2024 Nationals would apply for the following year.

McCabe proposed ensuring that evaluations are stored electronically for future reference and asked for specific details on how the transition would be managed. She expressed support for the proposed changes but emphasized the need to clarify all aspects.

Byrne encouraged everyone to share their thoughts and ideas on this transition, acknowledging that it might require a different approach. McClellan voiced her support for the new schedule, citing its better alignment with the budgeting process.

Gann sought clarification on whether raises would be given at the upcoming spring meeting. Byrne confirmed that raises could be awarded at both the spring meeting and Nationals, depending on their merit.

#### BD.23.124 Modify Employee Evaluation and Raise Timeframes

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

#### **Motioned by Byrne to rewrite section 13.2 of the Policy Book and section 5.3.2 of the Director Handbook. Seconded by Wesen.**

##### Current Wording - Policy Book:

###### 13.2 Raises

Employee raises and/or bonuses will be determined at the Board's Spring Meeting. Any raises will become effective July 1 of each year.

##### Proposed Wording - Policy Book:

###### 13.2 Raises

Employee raises and/or bonuses will be determined at the Board's National Specialty in person meeting. Any raises will become effective January 1 of each year.

##### Current Wording - Director Handbook:

###### 5.3 ASCA Officer Duties

###### 5.3.2 First Vice President

A. Prepares Employee Reviews for the Board's Spring Meeting.

##### Proposed Wording - Director Handbook:

###### 5.3 ASCA Officer Duties

###### 5.3.2 First Vice President

A. Prepares Employee Review for the Board's National Specialty Meeting.

Comments/Rationale: Currently, the President and 1st Vice-President serve as Liaisons to Office Manager and Business Office Staff and Executive Secretary respectively. In the current policy, Performance Evaluations are conducted in March for presentation to the BOD at our Spring Meeting. That gives the reviewer about a half year to review those employees if those officers are new to that office. I don't think this is fair to the employee being reviewed or the reviewer. My proposal would allow for an employee to have almost a full year for an evaluation period instead of 5-6 months.

Another consideration to be made is that our budget for payroll would be for an entire year instead of salary increases becoming effective in the middle of the year as is the current policy.

I would propose this become effective immediately upon our approval with the caveat that in 2024, there would be 2 performance evaluations conducted. The current policy would need to remain in effect for the Spring



Meeting, but we would have a second review in the fall for any salary increases to be made effective January 1 of the following year.

Affected: ASCA Board of Directors, ASCA employees, ASCA Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## October 2023 Email Business

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

### BD.23.125 October 2023 Email Business

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen.

Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Wesen to ratify all business conducted over email in October 2023. Seconded by McCabe.**

## System Liaison's Report

System Liaison Clayton provided an update on the ongoing computer system work. He reported receiving a message from the Webmaster about difficulties in updating the signature from Gann to Byrne on certificates, noting that certificates will temporarily continue to bear Gann's signature until resolved. The IT Committee has inquired about moving forward with the developer in Poland, pending Board approval. He also mentioned the committee's ongoing work on resolving minor system glitches, with progress being made.

Byrne recalled that the Board had previously agreed to a specific budget for engaging the developer's services. Ward pointed out that while the Board initially approved a monthly budget of \$3,000 for the developer, a subsequent larger budget was allocated. She emphasized the need for the Board to authorize the committee to proceed without further delay.

McCabe highlighted the necessity for a Statement of Work and a formal contract for the developer, which should be prepared by the committee and approved by the Board's legal counsel.

McLellan clarified that \$46,000 was allocated for computer-related expenses in 2024, amounting to about \$3,800 per month. She expressed the desire to understand the billing process and contract details before giving final approval, while hoping to keep the process moving forward.

Gann, drawing from his experience with the previous computer companies, insisted on having a detailed Statement of Work approved by the Board before proceeding. He strongly opposed any Time and Material type agreements, calling for more information and clarity before any work begins.

Byrne concurred with Gann, emphasizing the need for a contract based on deliverables, given past issues with Time and Materials agreements. She suggested that Clayton relay these requirements to the committee and ensure the contract is reviewed by legal counsel.

McLellan inquired who would be responsible for drafting the Statement of Work. Byrne clarified that it should be a collaborative effort between the committee and the contract employee, with final Board approval.

Ward summarized that the committee is developing a list of deliverables and a contract for the developer and is awaiting the Board's authorization to proceed. She reiterated that the finalized agreement would be subject to Board approval, as the Board is the sole signatory of contracts.

President Byrne thanked all the Directors for their work this month and the members listening. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm. (Moted by Sims, Seconded by Gann).

## ASCA Board Motions

### Director Recommendations

BD.23.119 Board Voting Schedule

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen.  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Wesen to make changes to the Board voting process. Second by Sims.**

Current Wording: Policy Book

#### **8.14 Voting Procedures**

All motions must be sent to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Board. Motions must appear at the beginning of any forwarding correspondence.

A motion will not be sent to the Executive Secretary without a second (exceptions are motions from Committees, Committee nominations, and Judge approvals).

The Executive Secretary will forward all motions and seconds to the Board within one day of receipt.

The voting schedule is:

- A. Motions are made and forwarded to the Executive Secretary between the 1st and the 10th of each month for forwarding to the Board for comment.
- B. The comment period is the first through the nineteenth of each month.
- C. The Executive Secretary will call for votes on the twentieth (or the first business day thereafter) with the voting period ending five business days later.

The Executive Secretary will tally all votes received by the deadline and notify the Board of the results.

Directors may register a telephone vote, which must be verified in writing. To be counted, Director votes must be received by the due date. Individual Director votes will not be disclosed by the Executive Secretary prior to the voting deadline.

Excluding emergencies, no votes will be due on any Saturday or Sunday.

Each year, from December 20 through January 2, the Board observes the holiday season. During this period all requests for comments and votes on all non-emergency issues will be delayed until the next voting cycle.

The December voting period will be adjusted each year to have the voting cycle end on December 20 (or earlier if the 20th falls on a weekend). The January motion cycle will start the first business day after January 2.

All previous Board business must be ratified at the next Board meeting at which a majority of Directors are present.

Proposed Wording: Policy Book

#### **8.14 Voting Procedures**

All motions must be sent to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Board. Motions must appear at the beginning of any forwarding correspondence.

A motion will not be sent to the Executive Secretary without a second (exceptions are motions from Committees, Committee nominations, and Judge approvals).

The Executive Secretary will forward all motions and seconds to the Board within one day of receipt.

The voting schedule is:

- A. Motions are made and forwarded to the Executive Secretary between the 1st and the 10th of each month for forwarding to the Board for comment.
- B. The comment period is the first through the nineteenth of each month.
- C. The Executive Secretary will call for votes on the twentieth (or the first business day thereafter) with the voting period ending five business days later.
- D. Random schedule voting would take place as needed and outside the above fixed schedule. Motions would still follow a process of a comment period of nine days after the Executive Secretary has forwarded the motion to the Board, and a voting period of five days.

The Executive Secretary will tally all votes received by the deadline and notify the Board of the results.

Directors may register a telephone vote, which must be verified in writing. To be counted, Director votes must



be received by the due date. Individual Director votes will not be disclosed by the Executive Secretary prior to the voting deadline.

Excluding emergencies, no votes will be due on any Saturday or Sunday.

Each year, from December 20 through January 2, the Board observes the holiday season. During this period all requests for comments and votes on all non-emergency issues will be delayed until the next voting cycle. The December voting period will be adjusted each year to have the voting cycle end on December 20 (or earlier if the 20th falls on a weekend). The January motion cycle will start the first business day after January 2. All previous Board business must be ratified at the next Board meeting at which a majority of Directors are present.

Comments/Rationale: The Board has often encountered situations in which items need to be handled in a timely manner, yet the items do not qualify as an emergency. A random voting schedule will allow the Board to be more efficient in conducting business instead of delaying decisions. Under these stipulations, the membership is also provided with an opportunity to comment on motions in front of the Board.

Affected: ASCA Board of Directors, ASCA Executive Secretary, ASCA members.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

EM.23.16 Emergency Motion: Announcement for 2025 Nationals Committee Members

**Motion carried** (8-1) - Approved: Byrne, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: Clayton. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Dissent from Director Clayton:** I don't think we have enough information on the costs for this site. I am fine with getting committee chairs in place.

**Comment from Director Ward:** I approve the content and the intent of this announcement; however, I believe the timeline for the committee announcements should follow a signed site agreement. IMO this is not an emergency motion and should have been postponed until a site agreement was solidified.

**Motion by Gann to approve the following recommendation from the Nationals Advisory Committee.**

This is an emergency because of the time restraints placed in the motion.

Committee Recommendation: Announcement for Solicitation of the 2025 ASCA Nationals Committee.

Motion by Laura Gibson to approve the announcement for the 2025 ASCA Nationals as worded below. Second by Renee Watson.

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

Current Wording: Not provided.

Proposed Wording:

It is time to assemble the 2025 Nationals Committee for the 2025 ASCA National Specialty to be held September 19-27, 2025, at the Winnemucca Events Complex in Winnemucca, Nevada. If you are interested in any of the positions below, please use this link to complete the required 2025 ASCA Nationals Committee application by December 31, 2023: <https://forms.gle/nKWvVymXemmlkoXk6>

If you have any questions, please send them to [ASCANationalsAdvisoryComm@gmail.com](mailto:ASCANationalsAdvisoryComm@gmail.com) OR contact 2025 ASCA Nationals Chairman Susan Harris at [susan@skyhiaussies.com](mailto:susan@skyhiaussies.com).

These Nationals Committee Chairpersons will have a portion of their transportation to and from Nationals reimbursed per their contracts and will have their lodging and meals covered during Nationals per their contracts and per the job descriptions below, but they will not be paid for their time or work. **(All reimbursements are subject to final approval of the 2025 budget by the ASCA Board of Directors.)** Those who volunteer to fulfill these positions will be expected to work as part of a team, which includes attending Nationals Committee meetings and helping with Nationals set up and tear down. Individuals may compete during the week as long as it does not interfere with their Nationals duties. **Performing their Nationals Committee duties must be the priority for these individuals.** The position descriptions below are

not wholly encompassing, and additional responsibilities may be added to the positions as needed for the success of the 2025 National Specialty. **Show your love of ASCA and volunteer to make the 2025 ASCA National Specialty a wonderful experience for all those who attend!**

Please complete the application at the link above before by December 31, 2023, for one or more of the following positions:

**Nationals and Finals Stockdog Chairperson** (This may be two separate people; when it is two persons, they must communicate and cooperate to ensure that all the duties below are completed.) – This person is in charge of the National and Finals Stockdog Trials and serves as Course Director. The responsibilities include contracting for the stock and making sure stock is prepared for events, selecting the courses to be run, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract judges for the Nationals and Finals, working with the pre-trial affiliate to enable their success, developing the run schedules for each day of competition, working with the Nationals Awards and Rosettes Chairperson to plan for Finals and Nationals prizes, working with the Banquet and Receptions Chairperson to coordinate and host the Finals awards reception, and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the National and Finals trials. This person will work closely with the ASCA Business Office on Finals entries, judges books, etc. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals trial and working with the Stockdog Data Entry Clerk to complete the Nationals and Finals results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to nine days.

**Nationals and Finals Conformation Chairperson** – This person is in charge of the National and Finals Conformation events and serves as the Conformation Show Secretary. The responsibilities include working with the Nationals Chairman to procure the equipment needed for the events, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, readying the rings for competition each day, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract judges for the Nationals and Finals, working with the pre-show affiliates to enable their success, working with the Banquets and Receptions Chairperson to coordinate and host the Finals awards reception, and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the Nationals and Finals events. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals events and completing the Finals and Nationals results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Nationals and Finals Obedience Chairperson** - This person is in charge of the National and Finals Obedience events and serves as the Obedience Trial Secretary. The responsibilities include working with the Nationals Chairman to procure the equipment needed for the events, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract judges for the Nationals and Finals, ensuring that the rings are ready for competition each day, working with the pre-trial affiliates to enable their success, developing the run schedules for each day of competition, working with the Awards and Rosettes Chairperson to plan for Finals and Nationals prizes, work with the Banquets and Receptions Chairperson to coordinate and host the Finals awards reception, communicating with Obedience competitors, and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the Nationals and Finals events. This person will work closely with the Nationals and Finals Rally Secretary. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals trial and completing the Finals and Nationals results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to nine days.

**Nationals and Finals Rally Secretary** - This person is in charge of the National and Finals Rally events and will serve as the Rally Trial Secretary. The responsibilities include working with the Nationals Chairman to procure the equipment needed for the events, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract judges for the Nationals and Finals, ensuring that the rings are ready for competition each day, working with the pre-trial affiliates to enable their success, developing the run schedules for each day of competition, working with the Awards and Rosettes Chairperson to plan for Finals and Nationals prizes, working with the Banquets and Receptions Chairperson to coordinate and host the Finals awards reception, communicating with Rally competitors, and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the Nationals and Finals events. This person will work closely with the Nationals and Finals Obedience Secretary. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals trial and completing the Finals and

Nationals results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to nine days.

**Nationals and Finals Junior Showmanship Chairperson** - This person is in charge of the National and Finals Junior Showmanship events and will serve as the Junior Handling Show Secretary. The responsibilities include working with the Conformation Chairman to make sure the equipment needed for the event is procured and workers for the event are lined up and scheduled, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract judges for the Nationals and Finals, and assisting the Conformation Chairperson in the set-up, running and tear-down of the Nationals and Finals events. This person will work closely with the Nationals and Finals Conformation Secretary. This person will also work with ASCA's Junior Committee to plan other Junior-related events and activities. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals trial and completing the Finals and Nationals results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to seven days.

**Nationals and Finals Agility Chairperson** - This person is in charge of the National and Finals agility events and serves as the Agility Trial Secretary. The responsibilities include working with the Nationals Chairman to procure the equipment needed for the events, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract judges for the Nationals and Finals, working with the pre-show affiliates to enable their success, ensuring that the rings are ready for competition each day, working with the Banquets and Receptions Chairperson to coordinate and host the Finals awards reception, and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the Nationals and Finals events. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals events and completing the Finals and Nationals results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to nine days.

**Tracking Chairperson** - This person is in charge of the National Tracking Trial and serves as the Tracking Trial Secretary. The responsibilities include securing the site for the trial, working with the Nationals Chairmen to procure the equipment needed for the events, hiring the trial judges and working with the Nationals Chairman to contract them, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the trial. This person will work with the Awards and Rosettes Chairperson to arrange for rosettes and awards. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals events and completing the results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to three days.

**Dock Jumping Chairperson** – This person is in charge of the Dock Jumping events and serves as the Dock Jumping Trial Secretary. The responsibilities include procuring the equipment needed for the events, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract judge(s) for the trial, and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the events. This person will work with the Awards and Rosettes Chairperson to arrange for rosettes and awards. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the events and completing the results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to five days.

**MVA/MVJ Chairperson** - This person is in charge of the tabulation of the MVA/MVJ scores. The responsibilities include working with the Nationals Chairman to procure the equipment needed for the conformation evaluation event and any other equipment needed for tabulating the scores, lining up and scheduling any needed workers, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract the judge for the MVA conformation evaluation, and setting up, running and tearing down of the MVA/MVJ office and the MVA ring. This person is also responsible for completing the results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will work closely with the Nationals Chairperson and all competitive event Chairpersons to enable as smooth of an experience as possible for MVA/MVJ competitors. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to eight days.

**Nationals Accounting Chairperson** – This person will maintain the ASCA Board-approved budget Google spreadsheet of all financial transactions and will provide a monthly financial report to the ASCA Treasurer. This person will work closely with the Nationals Chairperson to create the budget for the Finals and Nationals events. This person will take entries from the Nationals ledger and place them on the budget spreadsheet to account for actual expenditures and income. This person will work with the Nationals Chairman to ensure all

Nationals Financial Policies are adhered to. During Nationals week, this person will assist the Nationals Chairman in the verification of cash and with making deposits. This person will complete a financial report of all Nationals and Finals income and expenditures at the close of the Nationals business. The budget and the final financial accounting will be presented to the ASCA Board of Directors. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Awards and Rosettes Chairperson** – This person is in charge of ordering all rosettes and awards for Nationals competition, as well as the prizes for the Finals competition. This person will bring suggestions to the Nationals Committee for rosette styles and colors and prizes, but final decisions will be made by the Committee as a whole. The Finals Chairpersons will decide what will be given as Finals prizes, but the Awards and Rosettes Chairperson will order the prizes. Responsibilities include unpacking and sorting the rosettes and prizes at the Nationals site and ensuring delivery of the various rosettes and prizes to the various venues in a timely manner. This person must be detail-oriented and be able to communicate effectively with the Nationals team. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Sponsorship Chairperson** – This person is in charge of soliciting sponsorships for the various Nationals and Finals events. This person will solicit sponsorships by utilizing various means of electronic communication, including email, social media, the Nationals website, the AussEnews, etc., so this person needs to be comfortable using the computer and various types of media.

This person will work with Nationals Chairman to set sponsorship levels and will be responsible for promoting and selling the sponsorships. This person will work with the Awards and Rosettes Chairperson to make sure that thank you cards are placed on sponsored awards and will work closely with the ASCA Webmaster to ensure that the website is up-to-date with regards to sponsorships. This person will also work closely with the Catalog Chairperson to ensure that sponsors are recognized in the catalog. At the end of Nationals, this person will place sponsor thank you's on the Nationals Facebook page. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Vendors & Stalls Chairperson** – This person is in charge of soliciting vendors and taking care of them during the National Specialty. In addition, this person's responsibilities include laying out the placement of the vendors on site, overseeing the set-up of the vendors on move-in day, overseeing the tear-down of the vendor set-ups on move-out day, and policing the vendors to make sure they are following facility and Nationals policies and rules. This person will also be in charge assigning stalls and will work closely with the Nationals Entry Clerk to maintain a list of those needing stalls. On move-in day, this person will be ready to assist with any issues that arise pertaining to stalls; on move-out day, this person will be in charge of making sure that stalls are left clean. During the week, this person will be in charge of making sure that facility and Nationals policies and rules are followed in the stalls areas. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Hotels and Travel Chairperson** – This person is in charge of procuring hotel blocks for Nationals, arranging travel and hotel/lodging for judges, and arranging hotel/lodging for Nationals Committee members, ASCA Board members and paid workers. This person will work closely with all competitive event Chairpersons, as well as the Nationals Chairperson, and will maintain a Google spreadsheet with travel and lodging plans. This person will handle hotel and travel issues as they arise during Nationals week and will gather the necessary post-Nationals hotel reports and invoices for accounting purposes. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Banquets/Receptions/Nightly Dinners Chairperson** – This person is in charge of arranging the food, beverage, decorations and entertainment for the banquets, nightly dinners and Finals receptions. This person will plan these events and oversee and physically set-up and tear-down these events, with the assistance of the Finals Chairs for the Finals receptions. This person will work closely with the Finals Chairs in planning for the Finals receptions. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Merchandise Chairperson** (may be two people co-chairing) – This person will be in charge of the Nationals merchandise booth. This person's responsibilities include suggesting merchandise items to be sold at the Nationals merchandise booth, procuring bids for merchandise, ordering all merchandise, setting up the merchandise booth, sorting, displaying and pricing the items for sale, manning the merchandise booth during Nationals week, and sorting and packing any leftover merchandise and breaking down the booth at the end of

Nationals. If possible, this person will also take pre-orders and post-orders. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**RV/Camping/Golf Carts Chairperson** – This person is in charge of RV sites, camping sites and golf carts. This person's responsibilities include working closely with the Nationals Chairman, Nationals Entry Clerk and the Nationals Travel Chairperson to keep a list of those needing RV spots, camping spots and golf carts, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract with a golf cart company for the use, delivery and return of the golf carts, working with the Nationals Chairman to assign RV and camping spots, overseeing the placement of RVs and tent campers on move-in day, planning for the delivery of carts on move-in day, overseeing the departure of RVs on move-out day, and planning for the return of golf carts. If issues arise concerning RVs, tent campers or golf carts during the week, this person will be in charge of seeing to these issues. As people continue to arrive during Nationals week, this person will need to take care of these people. This person must have the patience of a saint and know how to give service with a smile, even at the end of a long day! This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Hospitality Chairperson** – This person is in charge of procuring and delivering snacks and beverages as needed for workers and judges at the various venues, according to the hospitality schedule set up by the Nationals Chairman. Each day this person will load up the necessary coolers and deliver them to the competition sites before 7:30 A.M. This person will check on those sites at noon to make sure they have what they need as far as snacks and beverages, and then this person will pick up the coolers in the evening and get them ready to go for the next day. This person will have a utility golf cart. This job requires several trips to the store to pick up supplies and reception cakes. This is a physical job! This needs to be someone who can deliver service with a smile. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Parades Chairperson** – This person is in charge of planning, setting up, overseeing and tearing down the Parades event. This person will work with the Nationals Entry Clerk and the Awards and Rosettes Chairperson to procure the write-ups and the necessary rosettes and will work with the Banquets and Receptions Chairperson to coordinate the Parades breakfast. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to two days.

**Decorations & Signage Chairperson** – This person is in charge of decorating the judges' tables, conformation, obedience and rally rings, the Nationals photography set-up, and other areas as budget allows (most of this happens on Monday night). This person will also assist the Banquets and Receptions Chairperson with welcome dinner and Friday banquet décor and set-up. This person will also be in charge of creating a list of all needed signs and banners, ordering the necessary signs and banners, placing the necessary signs and banners on move-in day, and taking down all signs and banners on move-out day. There are some banners and signs which will need to be placed or changed during the week, too. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Facebook & Slideshows Chairperson** – This person will be in charge of creating and maintaining the Nationals Facebook group. In addition, this person will solicit material for and create the We Are ASCA Volunteer slideshow and the 2025 Finals slideshow. This job requires someone who can track and organize information and who has time to respond to questions in a timely manner. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to two days.

**Catalog Chairperson** – This person creates the Nationals catalog. This person works closely with the Nationals Entry Clerk to format the entry information for the catalog. This person also gathers the ads for placement in the catalog. This person needs to be computer literate and proficient with publishing software. This person will be expected to work on move-in day, making sure the catalogs are dispersed correctly. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to three days.

**Education/Seminars/Health Clinics Chairperson** – This person coordinates and schedules the seminars and clinics for Nationals week. This person makes sure the sites are set-up ready for these events and makes sure that they are cleaned up afterwards. If necessary, this person coordinates workers for these events. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to eight days.

**Nationals Office Manager** – This person runs the Nationals office, answering questions, handing out welcome bags, banquet tickets and other items, etc. This person is in the office from 8-5 the first half of Nationals but after that posted office hours can be established. This person must be able to multi-task with a smile on his/her face! This person will receive lodging and meals for up to ten days.

**Welcome Bags/Juniors Bags/Judges' Gifts** – This person is in charge of selecting and ordering the welcome and junior bags, soliciting and choosing items to go into the welcome and juniors bags, and organizing the assembly of the welcome and juniors bags. This person is also in charge of selecting and ordering the judges' gifts. This person will be expected to work on move-in day and the first three days of Nationals, making sure the bags and gifts are assembled and then dispersed correctly. This person will receive up to four days of lodging and meals.

**Scent Detection Chairperson** – This person is in charge of the Scent Detection events. The responsibilities include working with the Nationals Chairman to procure the equipment needed for the events, lining up and scheduling workers for the events, readying the competition areas each day, working with the Nationals Chairman to contract a judge(s) for the Scent Detection events and overseeing the set-up, running and tear-down of the events. This person is also responsible for sanctioning the Nationals events (if necessary) and completing the Nationals results paperwork which must be turned into the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times. This person will receive lodging and meals for up to three days.

**Local Liaison** – This person is willing to run local errands on behalf of the Nationals Committee and receives the various shipments of merchandise, etc. and transports those items to a storage unit. This person will need to live in Winnemucca for this Nationals. This person will receive a free stall, free entries and meals since they will not need lodging or travel funds.

**Assistant to the Nationals Chairperson** – This is not a separate position. The Nationals Chairperson may choose the Assistant(s) to the Nationals Chairperson from the Chairpersons already on the Nationals Committee. This person will assist the Nationals Chairperson by performing whatever duties are delegated by the Nationals Chairperson. They will act as a thought partner for the Nationals Chairperson and help as needed during Nationals week, overseeing the aspects of the Nationals delegated to him/her by the Nationals Chairperson, while still performing the duties outlined in his/her original appointed position.

Comments/Rationale: This announcement is needed to solicit members for the 2025 Nationals Committee.

Affected: Anyone who wishes to serve on the 2025 ASCA Nationals Committee.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval to be published in all ASCA media outlets.

## Committee Recommendations

### Rally Committee

RA.23.07 Notification of Finalists and Alternates for Rally Finals

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen.  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Liaison Sims to approve the following recommendation from the Rally Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: RC Motion 23.14 Notification of Finalists and Alternates for Rally Finals.  
Motion by Karen Black to change the way notifications are made for Rally Finalists and Alternates and to allow all Alternates listed on the ASCA Website to request an entry form from the Business Office for Rally Finals.  
Seconded by Diana Curl.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 12. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

### 13.2.4 Invitations

Invitations will be sent to the top 20 Rally dogs as ranked in the Aussie Times from the combined scores of Excellent B and Masters B. There may be more than 20 dogs if there is a tie for the 20th placement. Dogs with ties will be listed alphabetically in the placement they are tied for. EXAMPLE: Dog A has 92 points; dogs B, C, and D have 89 points. They will be listed as A in first place and B, C, and D in second place, and dog E in fifth place. By July 1st of each year, the next twenty 20 will be notified that they are on the alternates list, should any of the top 20 not be able to participate.

### 13.3.3 Notification of Alternates; Refunds

If an eligible contestant fails to send in an entry form or has to withdraw their entry, the ASCA Business Office will notify the next alternate who has stated their intent to attend. If a cancellation occurs the day of the Finals, one of the 20 alternates on the grounds will become eligible in order of their rankings. If no alternates are available, the Finals will run short. Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate.

#### Proposed Wording:

### 13.2.4 Invitations

Invitations will be sent to the top 20 Rally dogs as ranked ~~in the Aussie Times~~ on the ASCA website from the combined scores of Excellent B and Masters B. There may be more than 20 dogs if there is a tie for the 20th placement. Dogs with ties will be listed alphabetically ~~in~~ for the placement they are tied for. EXAMPLE: Dog A has ~~92~~ 1996 points; dogs B, C, and D have ~~89~~ 1994 points; dog E has 1993 points. They will be listed as A in first place and B, C, and D in second place, and dog E in fifth place. By July 1st of each year, ~~the next twenty 20 will be notified that they are on the alternates list, should any of the top 20 not be able to participate~~ a reminder notification will be sent to the ASCA io groups and the electronic newsletter notifying rally exhibitors to check the Rally Finals Standings list on the website for their position in the standings. Any team listed as an alternate on the ASCA website may request an entry. Entry forms for alternates are available by request from the ASCA Business Office if they are interested in the opportunity to show in Finals should an opening become available.

### 13.3.3 Notification of Alternates; Refunds

If an eligible contestant fails to send in an entry form or has to withdraw their entry, the ASCA Business Office will notify the next alternate who has stated their intent to attend. If a cancellation occurs the day of the Finals, one of the ~~20~~ alternates on the grounds will become eligible in order of their rankings. If no alternates are available, the Finals will run short. Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate.

It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to monitor the ASCA Rally Standings list on the website and request an entry form from the ASCA Business Office. As a courtesy, the Rally Committee Chair or an assigned committee member will post a reminder on the ASCA io groups and the monthly electronic newsletter to request an entry form from the ASCA Business Office and return it no later than July 15th.

The Business Office will provide the Rally Finals Secretary with a list of alternates who have returned their letter of intent to attend so if there is a cancellation on the day of Finals, the Secretary will have the order of alternates to accept into the competition. Immediately following the competition, the Rally Finals Secretary will notify the Business Office that an alternate(s) was allowed in the competition so fees can be collected from them.

Comments/Rationale: This will maximize the chance of running a full Rally Finals event while minimizing work by the Business Office and puts responsibility of finals entries for alternates in the hands of the alternates.

Affected: All alternates on the Rally Finals list appearing on the ASCA Website will be affected as they can follow the list and request an entry form from the Business Office to compete in Rally Finals should an opening become available. Entry forms must be emailed to the Business Office no later than the July 15th deadline. The Business Office will be affected as they will have to email entry forms to all Rally Finals alternates who request one.



Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## RA.23.08 Selection of Rally Finals and National Rally Trial Judges

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen.  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

### **Motion by Liaison Sims to approve the following recommendation from the Rally Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: RC Motion 23.17 Selection of Rally Finals and National Rally Trial Judges. Motion by Corinne Shanks to adopt the process and timeline for selection of judges for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial. The current process requires judges to commit to judging nearly 2 years in advance of the trial, so the number of potential judges is small. This motion also places selection of the judges with the Rally Committee Chair and the Rally Secretary for the year in which the panel of judges is being selected. Seconded by Karen Black.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 11. Disapproved: None. Abstained: 1. Non-Voting: None.

### Current Wording:

#### **15 Selection of Judges for Rally Finals and Nationals Rally Trial**

##### **15.1 Eligibility to Judge**

- A. To be eligible to judge Rally Finals, the Judge must be an ASCA Senior Rally Judge and be in good standing with ASCA.
- B. To be eligible to judge the Nationals Rally Trial, the Judge must be an ASCA Senior or National Rally Judge and be in good standing with ASCA.
- C. Judge shall not have judged the previous three two Rally Finals or Nationals trials.

##### **15.2 Judge Selection Process**

- A. When the location and date have been specified for the National Specialty, the ASCA Business Office shall identify the date letters will be sent to Nationals and Senior Rally Judges to determine interest and availability. The schedule for sending letters and receiving responses must allow time for the National Specialty Committee to meet the deadlines for submitting slates of Judges according to the National Specialty rules. Letters of inquiry will be sent via US Mail and email. The date by which the letter is to be returned shall be included in the letter. Judges interested and available to judge shall return the letter of inquiry by the deadline date stated either via mail or email. The Judge must indicate whether they wish to be considered for Nationals, and/or Finals. Judges not returning a reply by the deadline date, either by mail or email, will not be placed in the draw for Nationals or Finals Judges.
- B. Judges for the Rally Finals shall be selected from the ASCA Senior Rally Judges who return the letter of inquiry to the ASCA Business Office by the designated date and have indicated they would be available. From the letters returned, two names shall be drawn by the ASCA Business Office. The names are given to the National Specialty Committee to finalize the hiring and contracting of the Judges for Rally Finals. The draw will be performed live on Facebook. The remaining names will be drawn, and names submitted to the National Specialty Committee. If there is a Judge cancellation, the National Specialty Committee shall contact the next name on the list, in the order drawn. In the event all names submitted and drawn are not available to accept the assignment, the Emergency Replacement Judge guidelines will be used to fulfill the judging needs for Rally Finals. Any judge hired through the use of the Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the minimum requirements of being a Senior Rally Judge and in good standing with ASCA.
- C. Judges for the National Rally Trial shall be selected from the ASCA Nationals Judges and Senior Rally Judges who return the letter of inquiry to the ASCA Business Office via mail or email by the designated date and have indicated they would be available. From the letters returned, two names shall be pulled by the ASCA Business Office. The names are given to the National Specialty Committee to finalize the hiring and contracting of the Judges for the National Rally Trial. The draw will be performed live on Facebook. The remaining names will be drawn, and names submitted to the National Specialty Committee. If there is a Judge cancellation, the National Specialty Committee shall contact the next name on the list, in the order drawn. In the event all names submitted and drawn are not available to accept the assignment, the Emergency Replacement Judge guidelines will be used to fulfill the judging needs for Rally Finals. Any judge hired through the use of the



Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the minimum requirements of being a National or Senior Rally Judge and in good standing with ASCA.

D. Rally Finals and Nationals judges may participate in Nationals events except on the day(s) of their judging assignment.

### **15.3 Submission of Slate of Judges for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial**

Two ASCA Senior Rally Judges will be hired by the National Specialty Committee for the Rally Finals. Two ASCA Senior or Nationals Rally Judges will be hired by the National Specialty Committee for the National Rally Trial. The National Specialty Committee will submit the Rally National and Finals slate to the Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed Judges slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate will be returned to the National Specialty Committee no later than thirty days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Rally Judges slate, the Judge's names will be posted within seven days to the ASCA Website on the "National Specialty Information" page and the Judge information must be to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May/June issue.

#### Proposed Wording:

### **15 Selection of Judges for Rally Finals and Nationals Rally Trial**

#### **15.1 Eligibility to Judge**

A. To be eligible to judge Rally Finals, the Judge must be an ASCA Senior Rally Judge, ~~and~~ be in good standing with ASCA, and cannot have judged the previous two ASCA Rally Finals.

B. To be eligible to judge the Nationals Rally Trial, the Judge must be an ASCA Senior or National Rally Judge, ~~and~~ be in good standing with ASCA, and cannot have judged the previous two National Rally Trials.

~~C. Judge shall not have judged the previous three two Rally Finals or Nationals trials.~~

#### **15.2 Judge Selection Process**

A. The timeline for selecting Rally Finals and National Specialty judges shall be as follows.

1. June 15 - July 1st (of the year prior to the event) – deadline for the ASCA Business Office to email a letter of interest to all Senior and Nationals Judges.

2. July 15th (of the year prior to the event) – deadline for return of letter of interest via email to the Business Office.

3. August 1st (of the year prior to the event) – a list of available judges shall be provided to the Rally Committee Chair.

4. No later than August 15th (of the year prior to the event) – a proposed slate of judges for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial shall be provided to the ASCA National Specialty Committee Chairperson.

~~A~~ B. Between June 15th and July 1st of the year prior to the event, the ASCA Business Office shall send a letter of interest to all Senior and National Judges. Senior Judges will indicate interest and availability to judge Rally Finals and/or the National Rally Trial. National Judges will indicate interest and availability to judge the National Rally Trial. Senior and National Judges must return their letters of interest to the Business Office via email no later than July 15th of the year prior to the event. Judges who do not email a letter of interest to the Business Office by the deadline will not be considered in the selection process.

~~When the location and date have been specified for the National Specialty, the ASCA Business Office shall identify the date letters will be sent to Nationals and Senior Rally Judges to determine interest and availability. The schedule for sending letters and receiving responses must allow time for the National Specialty Committee to meet the deadlines for submitting slates of Judges according to the National Specialty rules. Letters of inquiry will be sent via US Mail and email. The date by which the letter is to be returned shall be included in the letter. Judges interested and available to judge shall return the letter of inquiry by the deadline date stated either via mail or email. The Judge must indicate whether they wish to be considered for Nationals, and/or Finals. Judges not returning a reply by the deadline date, either by mail or email, will not be placed in the draw for Nationals or Finals Judges.~~

~~B~~ C. Judge selection for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial will be made by the Rally Committee Chair (or an assigned committee representative) and the Rally Finals and National Secretary for the event being selected. Selections will be made from the letters of interest emailed to the Business Office by the deadline. If the Rally Committee Chair submits a letter of interest to judge one of the showcase events, the selection of judges will be made by the upcoming Rally Finals and National Secretary and the previous year's Rally Finals and National Secretary.

Two Judges will be selected to Judge Rally Finals and two Judges will be selected to judge the National Rally Trial. In addition to the two Judges selected to judge Rally Finals, an Alternate Judge will also be selected in case one of the Rally Finals Judges is unable to fulfill their duties. An Alternate Judge will also be selected for the National Rally Trial, should one of the National Rally Trial Judges not be able to judge. Alternate Judge selections for both events will be made from the letters of interest submitted.

In the unlikely event that more than one alternate is needed for one of the showcase events, the Selection Committee will make further replacements from the letters of interest submitted by the deadline. If there are no more letters of interest available to select a replacement judge, the Emergency Replacement Guidelines in the Rally Rulebook will be used. Any judge hired through the use of the Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the requirements listed in Chapter 15.1 Eligibility to Judge.

~~Judges for the Rally Finals shall be selected from the ASCA Senior Rally Judges who return the letter of inquiry to the ASCA Business Office by the designated date and have indicated they would be available. From the letters returned, two names shall be drawn by the ASCA Business Office. The names are given to the National Specialty Committee to finalize the hiring and contracting of the Judges for Rally Finals. The draw will be performed live on Facebook. The remaining names will be drawn, and names submitted to the National Specialty Committee. If there is a Judge cancellation, the National Specialty Committee shall contact the next name on the list, in the order drawn. In the event all names submitted and drawn are not available to accept the assignment, the Emergency Replacement Judge guidelines will be used to fulfill the judging needs for Rally Finals. Any judge hired through the use of the Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the minimum requirements of being a Senior Rally Judge and in good standing with ASCA.~~

~~C. Judges for the National Rally Trial shall be selected from the ASCA Nationals Judges and Senior Rally Judges who return the letter of inquiry to the ASCA Business Office via mail or email by the designated date and have indicated they would be available. From the letters returned, two names shall be pulled by the ASCA Business Office. The names are given to the National Specialty Committee to finalize the hiring and contracting of the Judges for the National Rally Trial. The draw will be performed live on Facebook. The remaining names will be drawn, and names submitted to the National Specialty Committee. If there is a Judge cancellation, the National Specialty Committee shall contact the next name on the list, in the order drawn. In the event all names submitted and drawn are not available to accept the assignment, the Emergency Replacement Judge guidelines will be used to fulfill the judging needs for Rally Finals. Any judge hired through the use of the Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the minimum requirements of being a National or Senior Rally Judge and in good standing with ASCA.~~

~~D. Rally Finals and Nationals judges may participate in Nationals events except on the day(s) of their judging assignment.~~

### **15.3 Submission of Slate of Judges for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial**

The Rally Committee Chair will send the proposed slate of judges and alternates for both rally events to the National Specialty Committee no later than the deadline listed in 15.2.A. above.

~~Two ASCA Senior Rally Judges will be hired by the National Specialty Committee for the Rally Finals. Two ASCA Senior or Nationals Rally Judges will be hired by the National Specialty Committee for the National Rally Trial. The National Specialty Committee will submit the Rally National and Finals slate to the Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed Judges slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate will be returned to the National Specialty Committee no later than thirty days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Rally Judges slate, the Judge's names will be posted within seven days to the ASCA Website on the "National Specialty Information" page and the Judge information must be to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May/June issue.~~

Comments/Rationale: This motion is to simplify the selection of judges for the National Specialty and adjust dates to meet requirements of the National Specialty Committee, Executive Secretary, and Board of Directors.

Affected: Exhibitors will be better assured that scoring is appropriate and follows ASCA Rules & Regulations. The Nationals Rally Secretary and Chairperson of the Rally committee will be charged with identifying the most qualified judge from those judges that have submitted their interest in judging.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Stockdog Committee

### SD.23.05 Correction of Score Sheet Omissions

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, Hardin, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen.  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Liaison Sims to approve the following recommendation from the Stockdog Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Devona Pierce to allow correction of Omissions on score sheets within one hour of being handed out by a Judge (author Steve Shope). Seconded by Sue Kelly.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 7. Disapproved: None. Abstained: 1. Non-Voting: 3.

Current Wording:

#### **26.12 When Judging Stops**

Once the placements have been handed out, a Judge may not go back and change, re-judge, or correct omissions on any part of a score sheet.

Proposed Wording:

#### **26.12 When Judging Stops**

Once ~~the placements have been~~ score sheets are handed out, a Judge may not go back and change, re-judge, or correct ~~omissions on any part of a score sheet~~ with one exception: If an omission is noticed within one hour of awards being handed out, the judge may go back and change or correct at their discretion.

Comments/Rationale: A competitor should not be penalized for a judge's omission on the score sheet. This has happened to multiple contestants, including a first-time finals competitor in 2022 which omission prevented her from making the cut. I have talked with multiple judges and all feel that they should have the opportunity to try and correct any omission. This proposed revision would affect judges and contestants.

Affected: Stockdog Trial Course Directors, Stockdog Program Judges, and exhibitors.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.