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**REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
ANNUAL MEETING, NEWARK, N.J.
MARCH 8 & 9, 2010**

The official minutes are printed in the American Kennel Club Gazette and will also be available on the AKC.org web site.

The following report is this Delegates' unofficial understanding and interpretation of the goings on at the meetings.

The agenda of the March 8 Bylaws committee listed the following items, report from the joint subcommittees regarding future of the Delegate Body, Feedback regarding the Committees proposal to do away with Term Limits for Board Members, Continued discussion on the subject of three Delegate meeting per year instead of four. This looked the most interesting to me on this date.

As an aside, a very well read dog magazine seems to publish information and misinformation which leads its readers to believe there might just be an inside leak from someone either on this committee or worse yet, a Board member. It is true the sub committee is looking at future possibilities of changing meeting numbers, but it was pointed out that in order to do so would require a change of the AKC Constitution and Bylaws which specify the number of meetings and where held. That is not to say it cannot happen, it just won't be happening for awhile due to the amount of written changes that would need to be researched, presented and voted upon. There was a problem with the research done by the subcommittee in my opinion as the chairman stated that 94% of those questioned from all over the country had indicated in favor of such a change from four meetings a year to three. Actually, upon being pressed, the chair admitted only 45 members of the Delegate body had been asked. (At present the Delegate body has about 650 members.) The subcommittee was instructed to re-search what bylaws would be effected by such a change.

One of the proposals would have the annual meeting in April rather than March for three days rather than two, September meeting three days, and December meeting two days. The reasoning of all this is geared as money savings to AKC and clubs. Fewer meetings, one last trip. Yet there would be two additional days of hotel lodging. One delegate asked "which is less expensive lodging or travel?" That was considered a strange question. Most of todays delegates are dedicated people that consciously try to save their club expenses. Most of us did not stay at the AKC host hotel as the hotel next door was one half the price. Sometimes we do not have the opportunity for such a savings, but we take it when we can in order to save our club treasury. That is all of that on reducing meeting numbers unless the subcommittee comes up with more data, or the dog magazine tells another fact from some unknown source. An issue not being addressed is what does the AKC (and its clubs as we are all AKC) really want, when it comes down to a choice of allowing an unlimited number of member clubs in the future, should it limit that number of clubs that can become AKC members. North east clubs of which the AKC Membership is mostly made up, are competing for show dates and sites and entries. They want new clubs, yet they don't want them when they interfere with income.

Term limits again brought out some hard feelings of the committee members. The above mentioned dog magazine which no one admits reading, yet everyone knows what it said, is very against having term limits and had attacked in print some members of the committee for the rule. The Chair said It looked like the leaks may be from someone involved in the committee and she wished " they would get their facts straight". As Steven Gladstone would say at the meeting on the next day, "The term limits worked the way they were supposed to work, completely ineffective. They worked perfectly."

If, sincerely, the reasoning was to get new blood on the Board of Directors, it did not work. One year off was not enough. Every board candidate this election was a former Board member. Feedback was asked of those present concerning term limits, but not much was forth coming.

The last point covered at this meeting was that there had been no change in Membership fees since 1912. The membership fees meaning those fees that are paid to be a member club of the American Kennel Club. The idea of a \$500 fee to new clubs was chased around. That probably will not fly, but there is a growing number of clubs in the delegate body, once again the question, do we want them to come in or not? Many clubs do not see a benefit in being a member club, yet, any new breed parent club should be encouraged to become a member club.

The Caucus

As if enough had not been already asked of these poor candidates, they were again subjected to a round of questions in case no delegate had yet made up his mind or had been instructed by his represented club how to vote.

There seemed to be some underlying negative currents concerning the relationship of AKC and CAR, thus the board candidate head of CAR, Mr. Battaglia seemed to be put in a position of defense. It was pointed out by some of the candidates that there was no loss, and any financial appearance is a result of the termination of the 10 year microchip contract between Schering and the AKC. Schering went independent apparently believing the AKC was not needed for its market. AKC has replaced its microchip provider and really things are looking better than ever. Those things were not the fault of Mr. Battaglia. (As an aside, an entire article needs to be written about the AKC, registration and microchip situation).

I feel enough has been written about the candidates that to share more would not be necessary. Club members have instructed this Delegate how to vote, and outside of any new thoughts and ideas presented during the round table discussion, nothing further was a source of future enlightenment. We have had every one of these people and have already learned they are good candidates, care for their responsibility, and whether some are personally preferred over others, does not subtract from the ability of each to serve the American Kennel Club.

As a sum up of the committee meetings, there will be a Parent club conference August 27, 28, and 29 in the Raleigh Durham area. The plans for an all breed clubs/obedience conference are in the making.

Bylaws committee reported that although a subcommittee had been formed to consider a change in Delegate meetings, there was no fact (and actually there is no way the committee alone has that power) that there will be a change to three meetings. Research is still early. (It probably will happen, just not this year, or next year). Attendance at the June meeting is statistically smaller than the meetings held in the NE. There is a reason for that, but since my report/article will be fairly lengthy, I will save that information. The committee on Delegate advocacy will be working on this.

Field Trial and Hunting test committee is requesting some research regarding the use of a particular type of rye seed used in public rest area and in many park areas. Cheap and easy to grow, it is increasingly being considered a very harmful and sometimes deadly seed as it enters into the ears, nasal and oral cavities of dogs. So far they have not been able to lift the concern of others, but please note those times our show dogs may have been exposed to those seeds while traveling. If you have had such an encounter requiring veterinary assistance, that can be documented, we can start to see if such a problem actually exists, and if it does, where does it occur?

A statement by Dr. Davies, that would be read into the minutes at the next days official meeting was read at the committee. Basically it said that there would be a motion to refer the Group realignment back to the Board.

A club has presented the idea for clubs to present at each of its gate a sticker for people to wear that says " I AM HERE FOR THE DOG SHOW". It was felt this would be an excellent way for merchants to be made aware of the amount of business such a show generates.

DELEGATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 2010, Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, Newark New Jersey

There was a legislative meeting held at 7:30 a.m. prior to the annual meeting which began at 9. First order was the voting for the new three Board members. The meeting proceeded after voting and while the votes were counted.

Many new delegates were introduced. Three new member clubs were added to the ranks of Delegate clubs. Annual report reflects a slightly stronger market and asset increase as well as a liability decrease. Its operating expenses are about \$4000 less than last year which reflects some cutting of jobs at headquarters. Registrations are lower by about four million dollars. Pedigrees and royalties are down about one million dollars. 390,000 litter registered last year, a 12% decrease. Individual registrations are down about 9 %.

There was a 3% increase in dog events and entries increased 1 1/2 % with a net loss of 10.2 million from events. Paid Gazette subscribers now numbers 27,000.

Voting--The agenda had to reflect the fact that the proposed amendments to Chapter 3 and all of the many sections relating to the rules and registrable breeds by group and creation of new northern group would be brought back to vote. Our packets were filled with the required information and some were confused that this seemed to be appearing again after no information to our clubs was provided. It was actually a required procedure. The statement was given that "Considered recommendations will be necessary, but the current proposal is not ideal. It needs refinement and will be referred back to the Board." The motion was made to be referred back to the Board was passed by a standing vote.

Vote on Ch. 11, Section 6 which allowed the use of telegrams (obsolete) was eliminated.

Delegates were prepared to vote on Ch 10 Sections 1-6 Duties and Responsibilities of Show Veterinarians which would update the requirements for show veterinarians to better accommodate on call veterinarians, and Chapter 15, Section 1 of rules which is intended to include the event committee in the process of removing dogs from the show, eliminating the requirement for a form and to assign the fiscal responsibility for veterinary expenses. A question developed which may require the rule to be re-written and so it was sent back to the rules committee.

There was a reading on Chap 14, new paragraph of Field trial rules for pointing breeds field trials that would establish minimum standards for National Championship events.

The voting results were announced. it was an unusual in that it only took one ballot to establish a majority. It was determined that 396 delegates were present, requiring a majority vote of 198. Dr. Battaglia-175, Steve Gladstone-172, Pat Scully-218, Dr. Garmen-238, and Dr. Newman-217.

Scully, Garmen and Newman were declared winners, and a meeting that has to go on record as one of the shortest, at least in the history of this delegates experience, came to the end.