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Delegates' Meeting June 2012

Held in Raleigh, NC

This was new AKC Chairman of the Board Alan Kalter first Delegates' Meeting. There was not a lot of business conducted at this meeting. The complete minuets are available at:

http://images.akc.org/pdf/delegate_minutes/June2012.pdf

AKC Chief Financial Officer, James Stevens, gave his report. A summary follows:

We're pleased to report that 2012's operating results to date are an improvement from the previous two years.

Our total revenues for the first five months of this year were \$710,000 higher than last year. Event fee revenues were greater than 2011. The number of events increased 6.6% so far this year, compared to last year. The number of entries was 7½ % greater than 2011. Our registration revenues have increased by over \$400,000 as a result of higher dog registration fees. We're also pleased that revenues from sponsorships and royalties increased by \$372,000 and \$207,000, respectively.

Our total expenses were marginally higher by \$76,000. We're continuing to make a strategic investment in marketing. In addition, we're legally obligated to make quarterly contributions to the pension plan. We weren't required to do this last year. The painful cost reductions we absorbed in 2011 have essentially offset these incremental expenses this year.

When you put all this together, our operations produced a surplus of over \$900,000 for the first 5 months of this year.

The market value of our investments increased by \$2 million. This was a 3.7% return for the first five months.

This year's rate of return has outperformed the composite benchmark for our portfolio.

This is good news. Let us hope this trend continues, however the increase was from the increase in registration fees not an increase in registrations. LLS.

There was a vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which would allow superintendents and show secretaries using AKC entry verification to correct entries as appropriate.

It was published in two issues of the online AKC Gazette. The proposed amendment was brought forward by AKC staff and approved by the AKC Board. There were two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted, effective immediately.

This passed unanimously. It was an obvious winner, should have been done a long time ago. LLS

The Executive Secretary read the following proposed amendments and they will be voted on at the September 2012 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, Section 3, of the

Rules Applying to Dog Shows, which would require clubs that hold a show in their territory at least once each two consecutive calendar years shall have the sole show privilege in the city, town or district, which has been assigned to it as its show territory in order to maintain exclusive privilege in the territory.

This amendment was brought forward by the Suffolk County Kennel Club. While the AKC agrees in principal with the removal of territorial exclusivity if a club did not have an event in that territory for two consecutive years, the AKC Board disagreed with enabling a club to come back years later and establish exclusivity with the ability to expel clubs that had in the interim established shows at sites at that territory. The club was contacted about modifying its amendment. The club declined and required that it go forward with a reading at this meeting. It will be published in two issues in the online *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2012 meeting.

The AKC Board proposes that when it is considered for a vote in September that it be amended so that the last sentence in the proposal is removed. The removal of the sentence would not preclude a club from returning to its original territory, provided no other club has been holding shows in that territory during its absence. If another club has held a show in that territory, it would be considered open, with no one club being given exclusivity. Any club, which met AKC requirements would be considered for approval to hold a show there. If approved this rule would take effect immediately and would be implemented prospectively. Any club would therefore have over two full years to re-establish exclusive show privileges in its territory.

The Chair recognized Robert Eisele, Delegate for the Suffolk County Kennel Club who spoke as follows:

Originally, the Board proposed to Suffolk County Kennel Club that the last sentence totally be removed. Their train of thought is probably more in line with what we are interested in. What I will be proposing at the next meeting is an amendment to the motion that reads to the effect that if there has been a club in that territory having a show for five consecutive years, and if the first club comes back and has a show and reestablishes exclusivity, that the two clubs are then considered concurrent in that territory.

The Chair asked that when once finalized, that it be sent to the Executive Secretary.

The reading above has the largest impact on All Breed KC. LLS

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 5, Sections 6 through 8, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Ribbons, Prizes and Trophies*, which would create consistency with Chapter 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. It was brought forward by the Dog Show Rules Committee and is approved by the AKC Board. It will be published in two issues of the online *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September, 2012 meeting.

This reading is housekeeping business to bring the ribbons in line with the new dog show classes and awards. LLS

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1, a new sixth paragraph, to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which would create a new three point major for the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserves Winners Bitch at one National Specialty each year, specified by the AKC Parent Club, provided there are twice the number required for a five point major in the winner's sex. This amendment was brought forward by the Progressive Dog Club. The AKC Board has not made a recommendation. It will be published in two issues of the online *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it in September, 2012 meeting.

The Chair recognized Peter Piusz, Delegate the American Rottweiler Club who spoke as

follows:

Speaking for the Parent Clubs Committee, I would like to point out that all Parent Clubs have the option of opting out of this. Also the materials placed on the seats this morning were prepared by the Committee. Additional material will be distributed as we get closer to September.

This is the big issue for the September meeting. It almost passed the last time it was voted on. Approximately 67% of parent clubs will qualify for the reserve 3 point major. I believe it will pass. LLS

Mr. Ashby spoke as follows: Good Morning. Fellow Delegates, today I speak to you as Chairman of the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) which also has oversight responsibility for the Canine Legislative Support Fund (CLSF). In March Jim Stevens shared that our Club Members contributed a “nickel” each to the AKC PAC in 2011 - a very small amount when one considers the challenges we face.

Since its formation 6 years ago the AKC PAC has made a real difference using its meager resources, but for sustainable, across the country impact, we must have more resources. Today we are introducing the “Club Presidents Challenge” which we hope will increase considerably the impact of both the PAC and the CLSF in our efforts to fight overreaching legislation and the threats to dog breeding and ownership in the United States.

The rights of responsible dog owners are under attack. State legislatures across the country continue to introduce bills (facilitated by HSUS and other animal rights extremists) that seek to infringe on our ability to own and breed dogs—including mandatory spay/neuter, ownership limits, warrantless search and seizure, breeding restrictions, and breed bans. The increase in anti-dog and anti-breeder legislation threatens our purebred dogs and our way of life. It affects all of us—whether we’re owners, breeders, or involved in dog sports. In 2007, AKC tracked just over 400 bills. In 2009 there were 800 bills. In 2012 there were 1350 bills, through end of May.

Opposition is well-funded. We aren’t. In fact, in 2011, the AKC PAC received only \$6,662 in contributions from members of AKC-affiliated clubs. That’s an average of only five cents per club member, with the balance coming from AKC staff personally and the AKC Board of Directors.

The AKC Government Relations Department is working hard to fight back, but needs everyone to participate in the battle. Our goal is to facilitate Clubs in their fight and give them access to the training and resources needed to be successful. That’s the idea behind the Club Presidents Challenge.

To provide the resources, tools, and environment that we must have to be successful, I challenge your club’s president to take a leadership role in defending responsible dog breeders and owners.

There are two parts to the challenge:

First, I challenge AKC member club presidents to secure at least \$300 from your club’s members for the AKC Political Action Committee (AKC PAC). Simply collect contributions from your club members, complete a donor information form, and submit one check to the AKC PAC. In addition, you might also consider designating all or a portion of your Club’s annual dues to the PAC. This would comply with the law while providing an easy way for members to support the PAC.

Licensed clubs are also being asked to participate in this effort at differing funding levels.

The AKC PAC is an integral part of our government relations strategy.

Our challenges are great, but our potential is unlimited. AKC PAC gives club members a special opportunity to financially support candidates who will protect their rights. It combines 100% of their contributions with those of others to offer strong financial support of dogfriendly candidates in critical races.

Federal Elections Committee rules prohibit the AKC – or AKC clubs – from making direct

contributions to candidates. As experts on canine legislation, we have the resources to learn which candidates support our interests, and which don't.

AKC pays all the costs of administering this program. This includes all overhead – office space, staff time, legal fees, reporting, and so on.

This means that, no matter what you choose to give, 100 percent of your contributions to the AKC PAC are used to directly support the candidacy of leaders who share our commitment to reasonable laws that protect your rights and promote responsible dog ownership and breeding.

The more legislators there are who support our values, the more assured you can be that your rights will be protected. It's that simple!

Although you cannot earmark funds for specific candidates, as a contributor, you can recommend legislators to the AKC Government Relations Department whom you believe deserve AKC PAC support.

And where else can you make a contribution where you know 100% is going to the actual cause? Federal elections law heavily regulates who can and cannot give money to political campaigns.

Just as federal elections law prohibits AKC from making direct campaign contributions to political candidates, it also limits who can give to the AKC PAC. Eligible contributors include the individual members of AKC clubs and AKC employees.

The AKC PAC, however, is not the only focus of the Club Presidents Challenge.

There is a second part to the challenge. Clubs may donate to the Canine Legislative Support Fund. All money contributed to Canine Legislation Support Fund helps to defray AKC's costs in supporting legislation, securing formal representation in Congress and statehouses, and educating legislators and the public about responsible and fair policies for dog breeding and ownership. For example, it played a significant role in helping AKC lead the effort in defeating California's statewide mandatory spay/neuter bill in 2007-2008. It also underwrote the cost of the State Federation meeting in Raleigh during the spring where many states and Clubs were represented. It can provide training access at the state and local level to make sure you have the best chance of being successful in working with legislators, etc. With significant threats on the horizon, there is no question that the CLSF will play a leading role in our future.

[This was an outstanding presentation. The threat is real and we are way behind and underfunded. LLS](#)