

**Larry Sorenson**  
Dachshund Club of America AKC Delegate  
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June Meeting Held in Atlanta GA.

The June Delegates' Meeting was an uneventful event. The following is an overview of the meeting.

### **Financial Report \$\$\$\$\$:**

James Stevens, the Chief Financial Officer gave the Financial Report. A summary follows:

Total revenues for the five months ended May 2010 were \$1.9 million **or 7% lower than the prior year**. Total operating expenses during this same time period **were 4% below 2009**. This resulted in an operating deficit of \$100,000 for five months.

Our investments generated a gain of \$1.6 million for the first five months of this year. This represented a 2 ½% return for the period, which outperformed the major stock market indices.

### **Items Voted on and approved:**

There was a vote on a proposed amendment to Chapter 14, additional wording on National Championship Events of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds - Rules for Pointing Breed Field Trials*. This amendment establishes minimum standards for National Championship events. It was published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*. The amendment was adopted by a two-thirds vote.

### **Items to be voted on at the September meeting:**

- **Term Limits of Board Members:**

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 1, of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club*.

Mr. Crowley spoke as follows:

This amendment to Article VII, Section 1, of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club*, would eliminate AKC Board term limits. The full text is on the Blue worksheet.

This amendment was submitted by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and is approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2010 meeting.

The Chair called on Judith V. Daniels, Delegate for the Mt. Baker Kennel Club and Chair of the Delegate By-Laws Committee who spoke as follows:

I would like to briefly explain how the By-Laws Committee arrived at this proposal in order to bring it to the Delegate body for our consideration. We've had many Delegates

over the past few years mention to us and to each other, their thoughts on term limits. Some agree with term limits, while others have said that they don't agree with term limits, and it's also been stated several times that many feel that if there is a term limit it should be a full term which is four years. And so our committee, at the last meeting where we proposed this, considered three ways of proceeding. One was to do nothing and leave it in place; one was to consider eliminating the term limit as it now stands in the Bylaws; and the other was to propose increasing it to a full term of four years. After a long meeting with lengthy discussion, we voted six to five to propose eliminating the term limit as it appears in the Bylaws. Now, at our meeting this time, it was asked if this proposal could not be amended to a full term, and the answer to that is no, because that would be out of the scope. The scope right now is one year or none. And we also announced that if people wish to propose a term limit for a full term, any Delegate can do that through their club and the By-Laws Committee can consider it. So this is in the hands of the Delegates. Thank you.

#### **Dachshund Field Trial Rules**

**The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 7, New Section 1, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Dachshunds - Entry Requirements and Eligibility*.**

**Mr. Crowley spoke as follows: This amendment to Chapter 7, New Section 1, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Dachshunds - Entry Requirements and Eligibility*, would specify a minimum age of six months. The full text is on the Grey worksheet.**

**This amendment was submitted by the Dachshund Club of America and is approved by the AKC Board of Directions. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2010 meeting.**

**The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 5, Section 1, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Dachshunds - Judges and Their Decisions*.**

**Mr. Crowley spoke as follows: This amendment to Chapter 5, Section 1, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Dachshunds - Judges and Their Decisions*, would delete wording to permit officers of the club to judge, becoming consistent with other AKC venues and increasing the judges' pool. The full text is on the Green worksheet. This amendment was submitted by the Dachshund Club of America and is approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2010 meeting.**

#### **Discussion from the floor about Judging Fees:**

The Chair asked if there was any further business to come before the Delegate Body. The Chair recognized Patricia Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, who spoke as follows:

On May 13, when I received the letter regarding the enacted Judges Annual Fee I spoke to a number of Board and Staff members to express my concerns. I also posted the

following statement on several lists.

"I believe that the Conformation Judges Annual Fee that the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club voted to adopt on May 11, 2010 is arbitrary, flawed and discriminatory. I also believe that it is another example where there was not enough discussion and input and certainly not enough explanation or disclosure before the fee became an edict.

At the June Delegate's Meeting I intend to propose a motion that there be a vote of the Delegate Body to request the Board to rescind and revisit the concept known as the Conformation Judges Annual Fee."

After hearing that the proposal had been pulled back for review I wrote the following to read at this meeting: "I was pleased to hear that the Board has pulled back the originally adopted fee/assessment plan and that the Board and Staff will be working to come up with some type of fee proposal that, if adopted, will be fair and equitable.

The meeting scheduled with staff members and representatives of the Judges Organizations is a good step in determining if there should be a fee.

If the determination is made that a fee is necessary and appropriate, I believe that the proposal should be made public before the Board votes on its adoption."

I was pleased to hear in the President's message presented to us this morning that the Board and staff after listening to the concerns expressed decided to withdraw the original fee structure and to perform additional due diligence. He also indicated that a request of communication and transparency deemed necessary by AKC's core constituency was heard.

After the July meeting with members of AKC staff and the Judges Organizations, and if it is decided that a fee is deemed appropriate, a proposal will be drafted.

I was also pleased to hear that the Fancy will be made aware of what this proposal will be and that there will be time provided for AKC's constituency to comment before the proposal goes to the Board for a vote. As we all know it is the Board that is charged with the responsibility of making the necessary decision.

I encourage everyone here and in the Fancy to participate in this process by communicating your thoughts and concerns to the Board and Staff, before a proposal is developed, and also once the proposal is announced.

I thank the Board and the Staff for hearing our concerns and acting on them. Only if we work together as a family, if we communicate with one another, if we are open and honest, and if we continue to care about AKC, our sport and one another, can we come up with an equitable solution. We must work together so that those working against us do not defeat us.

Thank you very much.

The Chair recognized Harold Sundstrom, Delegate for the Collie Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I'd like first of all to confirm Pat's comments to the Board and also I appreciate the comments that you made, Mr. President. Our newly elected president, Robert A. Meyers, has asked that the following statement be addressed to the Delegates and the Board regarding annual licensing fees for judges at AKC events.

"Requiring judges to pay an annual licensing fee will place an undue hardship on clubs sponsoring AKC events. The Collie Club of America does not pay a fee to judges for their services. Judges at our National Specialty are only paid their actual expenses.

These judges are prohibited by our national show rules from judging collies except for

herding group competition for the period of one year prior to the national. If these judges are licensed to judge other breeds as well as our breeds, they would be paying a fee for the privilege of judging our national. It is our sense that this would not be appropriate. A projected judge's licensing fee should be given careful scrutiny and thorough review prior to its implementation. Consider that as a group of enthusiasts we nurture and encourage newcomers to embrace our sport of purebred dogs. With additional fees being placed on judges, these fees would be passed to club events and then to exhibitors. This would be another costly expense to exhibitors. I ask that The American Kennel Club proceed with due diligence so that the sport we love does not again become the sport of kings because only the rich may afford it. Consider that as a group of enthusiasts we nurture and encourage newcomers to embrace our sport of purebred dogs. With additional fees being placed on judges, these fees would be passed to club events and then to exhibitors.

## Your Delegates Comments:

- I believe both the **Dachshund Field Trial rule changes** will easily pass.
- **The motion to remove AKC Board term limits** is up in the air, it must pass with a 2/3 majority and that is hard to get. I don't think the delegate body will vote for this change. We will need to discuss this between now and the September Delegate meeting. There was a discussion that if term limits remained in effect, that the time period to be eligible to run again should be changed to three years. Three year being a full board term. Let us hear for you about the subject.
  - **Parent Club Conference** to be held in Chapel Hill, NC. The dates are August 27, 28 and 29. This will be an interesting conference. I believe there will be more discussion and interest in group realignment.
  - **Judges' fees are not off the table at this point.** Meetings are being held with the major judging organizations. It is too early to know what the final decision will be. I will distribute information that is reported or being talked about that is a fact.
  - Complete AKC Delegates' Meeting Minutes are available at:

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/about/delegates\\_meeting/june10.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/about/delegates_meeting/june10.pdf)