

**AMERICAN SPANIEL CLUB, INC.  
MINUTES  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

DATE: Thursday, January 3, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., Eastern Standard Time.

PLACE: Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA,

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1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Mrs. Jane T. Williams, presiding.
  
2. Roll call  
Members present: Williams, Virosteck, Campbell, Torgerson-Rhismyr, Ward, Foley, Pike Pitts, Larson, Skinner, Gallant, Harris Elliott  
Absent: Van Deman  
Ex Officio: Harmon, Patterson
  
3. Notation of Committee Chairs and others present. Quinn Ruvacava (Zone IV Alternate Director), Marilyn Spacht, Carol Zielinski, Stephanie Kaul, Wilma Parker
  
4. Motion by Mrs. Pike, seconded by Ms. Elliott to approve the agenda. Motion approved.
  
5. Approval of Minutes (sent under separate cover). Motion by Mrs. Gallant, second by Ms. Elliott to approve the minutes as printed. Motion approved.
  
6. Report of the President – Mrs. Williams

With the combined efforts of the American Spaniel Club officers and directors, the Club has continued to serve its membership. I personally want to commend each of you for the many evening hours you spent on regular conference calls. These calls, made at no cost to the American Spaniel Club, have been productive.

We have survived the financial threat and reinforced policies and procedures to safeguard the Club's financial resources. We continued to receive little or no cooperation from Bank of American regarding the checking account and eventually had to settle the account for \$2,350.

As my term ends, I want to thank each of you; it has been my privilege to work with you. I especially want to thank Jane Harmon, Linda Moore, Kathy Patterson, and Dee Torgerson-Rismyhr for their guidance and support through trying days. To Jason Harmon who stepped in to chair the National Specialty in Oklahoma City and his show committee, a big thanks for such a successful show. The sportsmanship and camaraderie were outstanding. Thanks to Bettie Campbell for accepting the challenge of chairing the January 2008 ASC Show.

And now, let us proceed with the agenda.

7. Report of the Secretary – Ms. Patterson.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as ASC Secretary during this past year.

Because of the financial challenges this year we did not publish an Annual Report. But required notices to members were sent and we did publish and mail four issues of the Bulletin, all of which were well received. I want to thank those Board members who supported the Club by taking business card ads and again ask the rest of you to consider doing the same. I will be sending out renewal notices for the business card ads this month. I hope by expanding the advertising we will be able to take some pressure off the show chairs by making the Bulletin self-supporting – and that can only happen with member advertising providing support of the Bulletin. I also welcome suggestions from you – and any ASC member – for articles and topics to include in future issues. I am in the process of getting reprint permission for one Bonnie Pike suggested. And if you'd like to write an article or column your assistance would be appreciated.

With the recovery of some of the embezzled funds, we are back on track to publish the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary book – albeit VERY late!! Wilma Parker and I met with a designer last October and she will be starting the layout this January with an eye toward having the book available at the July National.

Since July, the Board utilized conference calls rather than email so there are no email motions and votes to put in the record.

I have filed applications for our July 2008 National Specialty Show and we are in the process of getting releases from all-breed clubs with conflicts. We have signed contracts with the show superintendent and conformation judges and are awaiting return of the performance judge and show secretary contracts.

I have gotten several requests from member clubs asking if ASC would be doing anything to help them meet the new requirements AKC has instituted that must be met to allow them to hold shows in 2009 and beyond. So providing some of this assistance in the Bulletin is something I'd like to try. To that end, I'd like you to authorize spending up to \$250 to purchase the Bassett University Templates designed by Dr. Claudia Orlandi from the Bassett Hound Club of America. These templates can also be shared by the education chairs.

Motion by Mr. Ward, second by Mr. Skinner to purchase the Bassett University Templates. Motion approved.

8. Report of the Treasurer – Mrs. Harmon.

I am happy to say that after a very rough year with ASC finances, we are in good financial condition once again.

This morning (12/20), the totals are:

Avidia Bank – Checking Account Balance \$116,462.19  
- Certificate of Deposit \$79,716.46

- Fidelity Accounts (PMT's) - \$93,865.93

Of that money in the checking account is \$75,000 that was paid to us for the bond on the former treasurer. I was hoping to have it in an interest bearing account by now, but with the signature requirements, it is a better thing to get the new signatures in Valley Forge and open the account after the January meeting.

There are no outstanding bills at this time. Everything is paid to date.

We will now be able to open three new accounts for PMT's that were never opened, although they were funded by their sponsors. They are accounts for Richard Squier, Eugene Estel and Ruth Baumgartner. We will open them after the organization meeting with the new signatures necessary for Fidelity.

We will also be able to finally publish the book that Nancy Foley and others have been working on and many people have contributed to.

As to the NSF checks that we have been dealing with, everyone has paid with the exception of Kimberly Williams (\$181) of St. Charles, MO, whose registered letter came back unclaimed and Charles & Jacquelyn Rowe (\$709) of El Cajon, CA whose letter came back as refused. I sent a letter to them regular mail informing them of the standing rule regarding their ASC status and to date, it has not been returned, so the assumption can be made that they know of their current ASC status.

As directed by the Board in July, an audit of the books from May 1 to date is underway. I am hoping to have the results of the audit to present to the Board in Valley Forge.

Membership dues are coming in.

After discussion of the NSF checks, it was moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mrs. Campbell to turn over the unpaid checks over to a collection agency as matter of principle and publish same in Bulletin. Approved unanimously.

Mrs. Gallant moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Mrs. Virosteck. Motion approved.

Ms. Elliott and Mr. Harris asked that the Board be provided with a detailed line item report on the 2007 show. Mrs. Harmon agreed to provide that information.

## 9. Unfinished Business

### A. Consideration of the proposal to create an American Spaniel Club Flushing Spaniel Performance Trial.

Mr. Harmon presented a proposal to create a separate national format for performance events based on costs and varying expectations of exhibitors. Mrs. Virosteck disagreed with the concept that would split off performance events from the two shows. Discussion focused on the problems several events have experienced because the expectations of performance exhibitors are vastly different from those of conformation exhibitors. Ms. Ruvacava spoke to the consideration that we would lose the concept of a "Cocker National" without performance events.

The Board reviewed complaints from several obedience exhibitors about the cost of exhibiting at the Flushing Spaniel Show. Mrs. Campbell had received notes saying there was no prestige attached to winning here, and the exhibitor could go to five other events for same cost. Mrs. Campbell offered that she would hate to take obedience away from Flushing Spaniel show and suggested that Ms. Ruvacava write an article for the Bulletin and web site explaining the costs involved in putting on a show.

Mrs. Pitts expressed concern that performance exhibitors don't understand cost, in time, money and manpower, of accommodating all the extra things they want – matting, padding, etc. Nor do they recognize the extra work done by conformation exhibitors to accommodate them. One example from the Oklahoma City National was that she and several other conformation exhibitors were left at the end of the show to roll up the padded flooring performance exhibitors wanted. No one in performance stayed to help.

Mrs. Gallant remembered how hard the Club has tried to include performance events and people but believes this would be a step backwards. While some on the agility cocker list complain, a majority of the exhibitors say this is our national and want to be a part of it. The complainers are in the minority.

Further discussion ensued on how to get performance exhibitors to accept the costs and limitations involved with a National. The consensus was that performance events should be part of the National and that education was the key to acceptance, starting with Ms. Ruvacava's articles.

#### B. Show site for 2009

Three sites are possible – Riverside (where the show was in 2003), the LA County Fairgrounds (Fairplex) in Pomona, and Pasco, Washington.

A review of the sites indicated that the Riverside site no longer had the grassy area we used for agility in 2003 and would require finding additional space for that event at another location or squeezing it into the rear half of the room used for grooming in 2003.

The Washington site has some challenges because airport transportation in and out is difficult. There are also some concerns about having the necessary manpower to put the show together.

Based on a review of all the sites, the Fairplex site in Pomona is Mrs. Virosteck's recommendation. The complex has eight buildings so there is plenty of space for all conformation and performance events. There is a Sheraton Hotel on site and good freeway access.

Ms. Elliott moves that ASC contract with the Fairplex in Pomona for July 8-13, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Ward. Approved unanimously.

#### 10. Reports from Standing Committee Chairs and Show Committee Chairs

A) AKC Delegate – Mrs. Virosteck.

I would like to thank you all for having the confidence to elect me as the new AKC Delegate to represent the American Spaniel Club. As of the December 2007 AKC Gazette I was published receiving my Delegates Credentials and will attend my first meeting next March 10 and 11.

B) AKC Gazette Columnist – Mrs. Tukua.

All Cocker Spaniel columns have been forwarded timely to the AKC Gazette. I have received very favorable feedback from the Breed Columns Editor(s). The next column is due in January.

Your column topic suggestions have been appreciated. I think a continuing series of interesting columns would be the interview of well-known and respected people with substantial accomplishments in Cocker Spaniels. Their thoughts, insight and advice can be extremely valuable, especially to newcomers in the Breed.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a successful and happy coming year.

C) ASC Archival Work Group – Mrs. Parker.

Our on-going objectives:

- To acquire and preserve important documents and other valuable items of historical significance in regard to the organization and in particular, Cocker Spaniels.
- To ensure the history of the club and the breed is preserved for future generations of Cocker Spaniel fanciers.
- To share ASC historical information with the organization, writers and researchers who benefit from having access to original source material.
- To continue to advocate the importance of preserving the history of the organization, the members and our Cocker Spaniels.

Members of the 2008 Archival Workgroup (Spaniel Sleuths): Cara Holland Burgess, Ronnie DeClerck, Joanne Thorp, Marge Saari, Kate Romanski, Bobbie Kolehouse, Shirley Estel, Lloyd Alton, Bill Gorodner, Pauline Reintee, Carole Kaye, Kathy Reid and Dot Mustard.

#### Acquisitions this year

We were contacted about a very unusual collection by an antique dealer from Vermont through the internet. There are 12 6 ½ inch SS plates and 12 3 inch SS goblets with hand tooled engravings of 24 cocker spaniels and each one is in the likeness of their own image.

**Plates**, Ch My Own Brucie, Ch Pan Craig Blue, Ch Premier, Ch Idahurst Belle II, Ch Blackstone Reflector, Ch Newport President, Ch Obo II, Ch Lucknow Crème de la Crème, Ch Baby Ruth, Ch Premio, Ch Lucky, and Ch Romany Rye.

**Goblets**, Ch My Own Roderic, Ch Princess Marie, Red Brucie, Ch Idahurst First Lady, Ch Midkiff Seductive, Ch Greencroft Sir Richard, Ch Jersey, Ch My Own Counselor,

Ch Black Duke, Ch Idahurst Roderic, Ch My Own Perfection and Ch My Own Straight Sale.

Ruth Baumgartner and the CSC of KY purchased the collection as a special tribute to Charles Cobb and John Gymer.

George and Noel (Garvan) Cacchio, Dungarvan, donated the 1941 Westminster Kennel Club Award won by Ch My Own Brucie in 1941. Restoration, display stand and hand engraving expenses donated by the Cacchio's.

Dee Torgersen Rismyhr sponsored the restoration of the last cup from the Gilman collection (1931) and also funded the special acrylic case for exhibition.

We received 2 autographed copies of hard backed books from Sandy St John of Florida. A 5<sup>th</sup> edition of "The Cocker Spaniel" by H. S. Lloyd a copy of "Reddie & Greenie" by I.M. Malone. Recently Cathy Carey donated the 1941 Westminster catalogue.

### Research Projects

In researching the history of the Red Brucie Futurity bowl we discovered errors in the printed Rules of how the bowl is to be awarded. This error was reported to the Board and has since been corrected both on the website and in the 2008 show catalog.

We have not been tracking the Cocker Spaniel who won BIS at ASC when another spaniel breed wins Best. These dogs have fallen through the cracks and have been forgotten in ASC records. Researching this information took hours of time and often I had to find the information in the AR or in old photographs. Now that those gaps have been filled I will be adding the information to our tracking records on the website. We should always include the Cocker Spaniel regardless for we are the parent club of this breed and we need to continue to keep these records.

On-going projects are:

- Kathy Reid, moving ASC Minutes to electronic storage, proof-read by Shirley Estel and myself.
- Pauline Reintee, Cocker Spaniel pedigree
- Marge Saari, Cocker Spaniel show win statistics
- Ruby Memorial Award will be presented at the Annual Meeting
- Ruth Baumgartner Perpetual Award. Ruth donated a sterling wine cooler again this year and paid for the engraving rather than using the interest from her PMT Fund to help finance the trophy. She wants to continue this practice as long as she is alive.
- The Futurity Challenge Bowl and The Red Brucie Perpetual Award. I decided to hold on off additional expenses to the club treasury this year for engraving of these two awards and I will catch them up for next year.

The 2008 Hall of Fame inductee will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

D) ASC Health Chair – Dr. Saari.

ASC Health Chair: It has been my pleasure to serve the American Spaniel club as health chair but in some ways it has been frustrating due to the lack of response to our semi-annual DNA blood draw clinic. Various things have been tried: early notification, prepared forms before the clinic and pre-clinic publicity in the ASC

Bulletin, Cocker magazine and cocker lists. We had a potential for a "record" turnout at the July show, but for various reasons that never materialized. A lot of energy is put into these clinics and volunteers are ready to work. I would appreciate suggestions as to how we can get better participation. Schedules are tight and people seem not to want blood work prior to going into the ring two days later.

This is your club, we are here to help the breeders resolve some of the problems afflicting our cockers for many years, but we can only offer it, the rest is up to you. A number of research studies are underway at various veterinary universities. These are in their infancy. I hope to have a progress report during 2008. Regarding DNA clinics, blood samples provide superior information for the DNA projects whereas swabs are good for profiling and proof of parentage, but these cannot be used for markers in any genetic studies. I will personally try to get better participation in these clinics. I look forward to continuing to work for the health of our beloved cocker spaniels.

The Board discussed how to increase participation in the DNA Blood Draw program. There were questions on how to update your dog's health history should it change after the initial entry. Mrs. Parker indicated that members could go in an update information using the Comprehensive Breed Health Survey. Mrs. Foley expressed concern that this is a symptom of a larger problem. The Club needs to be more aggressive about how proper information is obtained and updated.

Discussion of the roles of various coordinators and reluctance of exhibitors to have blood drawn a day or two before their dog is shown. Suggestion was made that this might be something independent specialty clubs can do to meet the new AKC requirements. Exhibitors might be less reluctant to have blood drawn at a smaller show.

E) ASC Health Registry – Mrs. Iby.

I'm sorry I will be unable to attend the board meeting January 3, 2008. Please accept this memo as my report.

The HR entries are continuing to hold up but are still not as high as they should be for a breed as prestigious as ours. Unfortunately, I have not kept track of the owners new to submitting to the HR. I will try to do this in the future. It appears that the entries submitted are primarily from the same owners/breeders over many, many years. They should be commended for their dedication to our breed.

The 2007 entries include:

- 72 eye clearances of which 5 included CERF registrations.
- 22 of the eye clearances were on new dogs to the HR.
- 18 OFA registrations which included 11 Good, 4 Excellent & 3 Fair ratings.
- No PennHIP ratings were submitted.
- 3 Thyroid exams.
- 8 dogs moved to Permanent Listing upon submission of updated clearances.
- 11 of the 72 eye clearances submitted were entered at Permanent Listing, presumably waiting to submit at that age for said listing.

In my opinion and as I've said many, many times, too few breeders/owners are taking advantage of what our HR has to offer. There is no charge for listing in the

ASC HR! It contains valuable veterinary documented information which becomes history of those dogs entered. All health information is valuable when used correctly. The potential is limited only by those who shy away from entering.

There are no perfect bloodlines, and it isn't a crime to come up with a problem. But it becomes reprehensible not to correct the problem. In some instances this may only be possible through refraining from breeding the afflicted dogs. However, I recommend that you become educated as to what faults can be bred and which ones shouldn't be. Cocker Spaniels have many different inherited problems, but some are miniscule and are more nuisance than medically debilitating.

As you start the New Year why not make a resolution to send in your documents to the HR and give serious thought to sending in your veterinary documented afflictions so we can get that part of the HR going. Do your part and make a contribution to your chosen breed.

F) ASC Rescue – Ms. Braun.

Placements have been extremely slow in many areas this year. A total of 11 rescue organizations responded with their numbers for 2007. Those that did took in 416 cockers and placed 331, dogs euthanized were 17, dogs turned away totaled in the hundreds due to issues of temperament, health or the rescue groups had no room to take them in. Four rescues totaling \$2541.53 were funded by the ASC Foundation.

G) Canine Legislation – Mrs. Dixon

Numerous bills banning specific breeds across the country continue to be proposed. Bad dangerous dog legislation is sometimes being offered as an alternative.

This has been by far the busiest year to date for introduction of bad dog legislation. Louisville KY, NC, FL, TX, CA, PA, and WI had proposed mandatory spay/neuter breeder licensing bills which were defeated (or tabled) in several other places: IN, VA, MN, NM. One of the worst remains in the legislature and that is CA. 1634, the statewide mandatory spay/neuter bill. Some cities in CA have drafted similar ordinances. The mantra being heard now is breeders kill shelter dogs' chances.

Anti-tethering laws were proposed across the nation. If this campaign is successful, watch for next year's battle to be against kennel runs and crates as the group behind this movement thinks that is also cruelty.

At this writing PAWS, now know as Senate Amendment 3723, has been added to the 2007 Farm Bill (HR 2419) awaiting action. I have heard that thanks to our phone calls and faxes the section regarding expanding breeder regulation and third party inspections has been removed. However, there is confusion remaining and it is uncertain what the status actually is.

I urge all Cocker Clubs to appoint a legislative liaison. Clubs should get to know their local lawmakers. Invite them to award the Best in Show trophy, or narrate the parade of champions. Offer to help with breed rescue from the local shelter.

Above all, urge your friends and family not to contribute to the organizations which promote these anti-breeder, anti-animal use laws.

H) July Show Liaison - Jason Harmon

Thank you, once again for the opportunity to serve as July Shows Liaison during 2007. Of course, the highlight of the year was the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual National Specialty Show held this past July in Oklahoma City, OK. I'd like to thank the entire show committee for their hard work and dedication in making this show so successful, both financially and as an overall experience, well done!

As we complete 2007 we now turn our attention to the 2008 show which will be held "Back Home in Indiana", where the show committee is actively working on their plans to host another fantastic event this coming July. We also have been actively working on site selection for the 2009 specialty which will be hosted by Zone IV on the West Coast and should have final selection made very early in 2008.

As we work through planning of all of these events it has given me the opportunity to introduce new models of site selection tools, show/committee management and budgeting that will hopefully allow ASC to be able to continue to produce top quality national specialties while providing a successful return on investment. Also it helps create a very portable model which future committees can use to easily produce a National Specialty. Additionally, we are looking at the future of performance events in relation to the ASC events and determining the best onward path that will allow all ASC events to flourish and showcase the versatility of the flushing spaniel breeds.

I) Cocker Spaniel Breeder Referral – Mrs. Frye.

Report distributed at meeting showed that there were 19 requests for information in the third quarter 2007 and 15 in the fourth quarter.

J) Cocker Spaniel Standard – Mrs. Speich.

STANDARD COMMITTEE REPORT-January 2008

There were no issues, addressed by the Board of Directors, during 2007 that required any action of the Standard Committee.

K) Companion Events – Dr. Grim/Mrs. Douglas.

With the help from my co-chair, Dr. Jeanne Grim, other committee members: Venee Gardner, Vivian Hudson and Gail Workman and several board members, especially Julie Virosteck, the American Spaniel Club now has a "recruiting" brochure to be handed out to potential members. The brochure is all encompassing of "Cockers DO IT ALL" venues, showing pictures of a cocker in "show" coat, doing agility, obedience and hunt. It has a short explanation of what is the American Spaniel Club, gives reasons for joining, and how to get information from our New Membership Chairperson, Jane Harmon or through the ASC's web site. This brochure will be made available to key ASC members who exhibit in conformation, agility, obedience, rally, hunt and tracking. Through these key members it is anticipated that the brochure will offered to cocker owners, exhibitors that members feel would be interested in joining and would be an asset to our Club (after going through our joining process).

These brochures are now being sent out along with congratulation letters to owners of cockers after titling in agility, obedience, rally, hunt and tracking.

Our committee is greatly disappointed that the board has imposed a "crating" charge on obedience and rally exhibitors at the Flushing Show. We are concerned that it may have a negative impact on entries, because no where have any of us experienced any cost in crating our dogs during an obedience/rally trial through any show superintendents or specialty shows. Will the increase of revenue be worth negative feelings? Entries will tell.

Submitted by Carolee Douglas

L) Education

Judges Education – Mrs. Virosteck

I am pleased to announce that I received the final version of the new ASC Judges Education Power Point presentation at the end of November. All of the changes that were discussed in July could not be implemented but I believe that we will be able to work around them and that this will be a much better tool than the previous one. I would also like to suggest that this presentation be made available for sale to the membership as both a fundraiser and an educational tool. I believe that it is very important that the breeders/exhibitors know what the judges are learning about our breed in order to be able to breed Quality Cocker Spaniels.

Dee Torgerson-Rismyhr will present the Cocker Spaniel for the January 2008 Judges Education seminar at the ASC show and will use the new format. We will also be presenting the English Cocker Spaniel and The English Springer Spaniel with the help of their parent clubs. One thing we will be doing a little different at the January 2008 show will be to only allow people that attend the Breed Seminars to attend the mentoring part of the educational seminars as well. The reason for this is because last year, with the AKC beginning the ringside mentoring part of the judges education we had way too many people show up for just the mentoring and had no room in the mentoring sections to seat them.

We also helped to present 4 other seminars around the country this past year for different all breeds clubs. At this point in time I have requests for 2 seminars during 2008 already.

I did contact ASC President, Jane Williams, and let her know that I will need to resign as the Judges Education Chairman in January after the show due to my many other commitments to ASC/ASC-F as well as my commitments to 4-H and FFA. I am willing to stay on the Judges Education committee and help the new committee chair as much as I can. I have really enjoyed this job for the club and appreciate the clubs confidence in me to have given me the opportunity to take it on for the past 4 years.

Mrs. Virosteck suggested making the new Judges' Education Power Point available for sale only to ASC members. After discussion, Mrs. Pike moved to offer the Power Point for sale at \$20 to members and \$50 to non-members. Seconded by Ms. Elliott. Unanimously approved.

### *Meet The Breeds Booth Report*

The Cocker Spaniel Club of Orange County and the West Coast Cocker Spaniel Club helped ASC to present the Meet the Breeds booth at the AKC/Eukanuba Show again this year. The booth was open on Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2, from 10:00 am thru 4:00 pm each day. With the help of both clubs, ASC's booth received another Group 3<sup>rd</sup>! For those of you who don't know, the Meet the Breeds booths are judged beginning at the group level. This year the Labs got a group 1, English Setters a group 2, Cockers a group 3, and the Tollers a group 4. The best in show went to the Carin Terriers booth. Our booth, again this year, had a field theme with an 8-foot by 10-foot backdrop of the forest, live chucker and even live fish in a real pond! Members of the local clubs that are also ASC members man the booth.

I would like to propose that a budget be set aside to help with the expenses of this booth for future years. The cost, so far, has been donated by a few of the club members but has run in the neighborhood of \$500 to put together. The members have purchased all of the decoration items as well as printing out the education paperwork other than the "So You Want To Own A Cocker Spaniel" brochure.

Also, the two clubs would be interested in hosting the booth again next year.

Mrs. Torgerson-Rismyhr moved to provide a budget of \$250/year for the Meet The Breeds booth. Motion seconded by Mrs. Foley. Unanimously approved.

Public Education – Mrs. Duggan

The brochure, "So, You Want to Own a Cocker Spaniel" continues to be a useful tool, and I receive calls throughout the year from organizations around the country, requesting copies for various outreach events.

We all agree that the ASC site is, first and foremost, geared to members to provide club information and to communicate with members. As such, it is an invaluable resource.

However, since the internet is the primary source of information for the great majority of the population, the ASC website is also THE most important way for us to reach those who want to learn about our breed.

ASC's responsibility to reach out and educate the public about our breed also means that people looking for information, breeder referral, and rescue Cockers should be able to find it easily.

Herein lies the problem. For the public, the ASC web address. [www.asc-cockerspaniel.org](http://www.asc-cockerspaniel.org) is, at best, problematic and puzzling. On any given day, faced with a choice of ten to twenty other addresses which appear above ours on the major search engines, browsers will certainly click on to sites such as "American Cocker Spaniel Information and Pictures" or "Dog Owners' Guide Profile – the Cocker Spaniel". In both cases, those titles clearly indicate what is being offered.

What can we do to solve this problem? I have spoken with advisors at Google, who have suggested applying for a SEPARATE web address that would take the browser directly to the public education pages on the ASC site. We could use, for example,

"So, you Want a Cocker Spaniel?". This can be done at little cost to the club, and would be positioned on the search engine listings by the number of hits it receives.

If we can accomplish this, I would suggest that we then clarify the front page of the actual public education page so that it is more easily navigable. This could be accomplished by adding simple tabs at the top of PE front page: "Find a breeder", "Find a Rescue or Adult Cocker", "Grooming", etc., etc.

Thus, my proposed goals for 2008 are:

1. Develop the public education pages of the site by adding some of the articles written by Kristi Tuqua for the AKC Gazette. These should give browsers more detail about owning a Cocker Spaniel.
2. Using the breeder referral section of the Irish Setter website as a model, develop our own section so that it becomes more of a "breeder bulletin board" - a section that is user-friendly for both those seeking information, and for ASC breeders.

The ASC site could offer each of its breeders the opportunity to have a "box" which would indicate name, address, contact information, variety bred, and perhaps even up-to-date puppy availability information. ASC would have to decide - would there be an annual fee for this? For those breeders wanting to have more elaborate displays - i.e. one with a photo or photos - would ASC charge an appropriately larger fee?

Bringing it up to another level, we could potentially arrange this so that the breeder could maintain his/her box by him or herself. In this way, the information could be kept up-to-date, and other ASC breeders would be able to use this for reference.

Any costs involved in maintaining this site could be at least partially met by fees charged to the breeders.

### 3. Cocker Rescue

The goal would be to have the same set-up for the ASC rescue pages.

Ideally, we would offer a box for each, with contact information, services offered, etc. Again, it would be ideal to arrange this so that the affiliate could update the information him or herself.

NOTE: It may be necessary to include a disclaimer on the links to the breeder and rescue pages - something like "You are now leaving the American Spaniel Club web site. PLEASE NOTE that ASC is not responsible for any information on the site you are about to visit.". Again, we could use the Irish Setter Club of America's web site for our model. It has an excellent introductory page to its breeder and rescue sections, detailing the club's position on these issues of responsibility and liability.

Mrs. Virostreck agrees there should be an easier address for the public to access the breeder referral and rescue pages and provide additional information to members of the public looking for companion animals.

Mrs. Foley moves to set up additional domain names for expanded breeder referral and rescue sites. Seconded by Mrs. Gallant. Unanimously approved.

M) English Cocker Spaniel – Mr. McFarlane. no action required.

The ASC Flushing Spaniel Show starts each year off with one of the most popular events for English Cockers. Regular and veterans sweepstakes is a popular draw for Friday leading into the regular classes on the weekend. Each year we have seen the entries grow. It provides a venue for an early glimpse of what is to come. We thank the ASC for allowing us to offer these classes and look forward to this continuing far into the future.

This year we have experienced the loss of two of the ECSCA past-presidents. Anne Rogers Clark and Brad Sweet both served multiple terms as President and their contribution to our breed and to our Club will be long recognized and appreciated. Both were great supporters of the ASC Flushing Spaniel Show and frequent attendees. Their presence will be greatly missed.

Once again, thank-you for allowing me to represent the English Cocker community to the ASC Board.

N) Field – Mrs. Gardner/Ms. Bennett/Mrs. Grabowski.

This is the report of the Field Committee on activities associated with the July ASC National in OKC.

#### Field Booth

The field booth was set up and manned for much of the day on Thursday and Friday. A great picture display of working Cockers brought many interested parties to the booth. Also, people were interested in the Field Kits which included whistles, lanyards, bumpers (some with bird wings) and the 3-book field series. The booth also had frequent showing of the Form Follows Function DVD. We also had available the 3-book field series for sale individually or as a package.

There was a great deal of interest in exploring the working aspect of these dogs. Lots of folks signed up, at the booth, for Saturday's WD Test and Instinct Evaluation.

#### Working Dog Test

The working dog test was held on Saturday 7/21 at nearby historic Fort Reno: <http://www.fortreno.org/index.htm>. Fort Reno is 30 miles due west of OKC. The grounds were made available to us at no cost by the US Government, specifically the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Grazinglands Research Center at Fort Reno.

We were required to apply for a permit to use the grounds, and we were required to provide a certificate of insurance covering the use of guns and live ammo.

The turnout for the WD Test was wonderful. Not only did we have some very talented American Cockers showing off their field prowess, but we also included a number of other breeds in the WD Test including Boykin, English Cocker and English Spaniels.

Despite the heat, we had a marvelous showing. Of the 17 dogs entered, 7 dogs achieved the title of Working Dog, and 2 dogs achieved the title of working Dog Excellent. This is a super success rate!

It was obvious that these dogs and their people have been working very hard to hone their field skills.

#### Instinct Evaluation

We also held an Instinct Evaluation. And this event was also very well attended. 27 dogs and their people participated.

There were some real surprises and plenty of smiles as dogs and people alike enjoyed the outing. Most of the participants took home bird wings and expressed their desire to further explore field work.

#### Financial Report

In view of the club's recent financial difficulties, many of the folks who worked hard to pull this event together decided to forgo some expense reimbursements that might be considered customary under normal circumstances. So, there were no judge fees, no judge travel reimbursements and no fees to our visiting pro trainer. The result was a net profit of \$608.14. So, in our own small way, the Field Committee is pleased to contribute to the rebuilding of the ASC's financial well being.

#### O) Foreign Liaison – Mrs. Ward.

I've been in the process of trying to email all ASC/foreign visitors. I'm also going to try to email foreign visitors in our visitor book starting with last January and going back. A lot of the visitors didn't print as requested, therefore, I can't understand their email addresses. In the visitors book on the opposite sign of the book from where they sign, I have written in four different languages, please print.

I have had no contacts this year.

#### P) Insurance – Ms. Torgerson.

Re: Annual Insurance Report

Dear Madam President and Members of the Board,

Well to say the least, this has been an active year for the Insurance Committee. We successfully renewed all of our coverages. We insure the property that is owned by the ASC. This includes all of the historical trophies that are acquired and maintained by the Archival Committee. We insure our liability exposure that exists when holding our shows. The Board of Directors is protected through the Directors & Officers Liability policies. We also purchase a fidelity bond that protects our money.

Often times, with the rising costs of insurance we wonder why we need to spend this money. This year we found out just how insurance is valuable. Our insurance

protection was put to the test when the monies of the ASC were taken by the treasurer. The discovery of the theft and the renewal of the bond almost coincided. When we reported the claim, we discovered that the check for the premium for the Bond had bounced. The insurance company tried to claim that the policy was not in effect due to the non payment of the premium. Fortunately, because we had ordered the policy and proper notice of the non payment was not given, the policy was reinstated with no lapse in coverage. We were able to recoup the full limit of our Fidelity bond, \$75,000. Thank you to Linda Moore, Kathy Patterson and Jane Williams who helped to get the proper documentation to the insurance company. Providing the documentation to the carrier in good order helped to expedite our claim. While the amount of the bond did not cover the full amount of the money that was taken, it helped to put the club back in good order. Money handling procedures were reviewed and enhanced to provide better protection for the club.

It has been an exciting year for the Insurance Committee. As always I am available to answer any questions.

Q) January 2008 Show Chair – Mrs. Campbell.

Mrs. Campbell came to the meeting to update the Board that arrangements were going well. The bathing tubs had been installed and were waiting for hot water to be connected. Electricity was hooked up and vendors were moving in. She reported that she had reviewed the reception menu and it was excellent. The hotel was printing tickets for drinks. ASC-F was co-sponsoring the Saturday evening reception and that had enabled her to order nicer hors d'oeuvres. They were still waiting for Rau to set up rings so the show committee could set up a number of other things. Right now, with the doors open, the lower level was cold and would be until everyone gets moved in. Day crating space had been marked. As far as the budget, Mrs. Campbell reported that she was still optimistic about bottom line for this show.

R) January 2008 Futurity Chair – Mr. Carter.

I would like to report that there were 71 bitch nominations for the January 2008 Futurity. There were 68 puppy enrollments and 7 late puppy enrollments for a total of 75 puppy enrollments for the January 2008 Futurity.

I would like to thank the committee for making changes to the wording of the rules for the January and July Futurity.

I would also like to thank Jim Fehring for his work on redesigning the forms for both bitch nominations and puppy enrollments. These forms are much easier to read and I think easier on the person filling them out.

I would like for the Futurity Committee and the Board to consider adding to the rules that BREEDERS OF ENTRIES for the Futurity MUST BE in good standing with the American Spaniel Club, Inc. (ASC)

Mrs. Pitts suggested a review of the language on the futurity forms with an eye toward stating in PLAIN ENGLISH how to nominate and enroll puppies. She also

requested that a reminder be placed in each Bulletin so breeders don't miss the second step of enrolling their puppies.

Mrs. Pike moved to accept Mr. Carter's recommendation regarding breeders of entries remaining in good standing throughout the process. Seconded by Mrs. Campbell. Unanimously approved.

The Secretary is to work with Mr. Carter and Mr. Fehring on the wording of reminders and this change.

S) July 2008 Show Chair – Mr. Harmon

Some applications for the show are done – conformation pending awaiting release from two Michigan all-breed clubs. Obedience trials approved, need to hire judges. Agility approvals awaiting signing of Secretary's contract. Agility Judge (S. Shane McConnell) has been sent a contract.

Special attractions – are planning to have a Stud Dog Showcase and are considering a breeder's showcase. Other activities include a welcome party and a Saturday evening country fair perhaps a Gentleman's raffle – along the idea of a cake walk.

Host hotels for the show are Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Suites and Staybridge Suites. That information will be uploaded onto the web site in the next week or so. We need to communicate that, while the hotels permit dogs, each hotel has a limited number of rooms that allow dogs and once those rooms have been reserved, exhibitors will need to find another hotel if they wish to have dogs in their rooms..

T) July 2008 Futurity Chair/Purina Futurity Coordinator – Mr. Fehring.

1) Unfortunately, I will not be able to be in Philly this January due to work commitments.

2) I have attached the current state of the Futurities for 2008 as far as nominations and enrollments:

- July 2008 – 78 bitch nominations as of 12/11/07;
- January 2008 – 74 puppy enrollments (final)

3) I have attached a summary for 2008 futurity counts as compared to prior years:

- July 2007 bitch nominations down 2% from July 2006; futurity enrollments up 25% and entries up 30% from July 2006.
- January 2008 bitch nominations down 28% and puppy enrollments down 20% from January 2007.

4) Achievements in 2007:

- Futurity data is now processed and current for both January and July on a monthly basis
- Futurity data is now reported to Purina each month on or before the 15th for the prior month
- Futurity rules clarified and re-written for 2008.
- Futurity rules for 2008 updated in website and website PDF files for download.

- 5) Goals for 2008 (assuming continued board support)
- On-line (web site) futurity nominations and enrollments with PayPal payment
  - On-line ( web site ) Membership renewal with Paypal payment
  - Move all futurity data into a relational database (MS Sql Sever ) for easy access and reporting.

Mr. Fehring asked for Board approval to proceed with his 2008 goals. Motion by Mrs. Virosteck, seconded by Ms. Elliott to approve the 2008 goals as listed above.

Unanimously approved

U) Legal – Ms. Moore

On April 18, 2007, I was honored to be notified of my appointment as legal chair for ASC. Also, at the same time I was notified of the financial crisis ASC was facing as result of all of the funds having been taken from ASC's bank account. ASC was notified by a lawyer representing the Club's treasurer that she had confessed to taking the funds. It was also determined that some funds had been taken from one of ASC's investment accounts. Consequently, most for my time this year as legal chair has been spent dealing with the issues relating to this matter. I have been involved in determining the amount of the loss, communicating with the Pasco County sheriff's department, gathering and providing evidence to the Pasco County detective assigned to the case, and providing the Board of Directors information about the criminal investigation. I have also provided the Board of Directors information regarding possible recourse against ASC's bank and possible civil claims against the treasurer.

At the ASC National Specialty Show in Oklahoma City, I participated in the town hall meeting and provided information to the membership regarding the amount of the funds taken, the status of the criminal charges and the claim under the fidelity bond.

Once the charges were filed against the treasurer, I was contacted by a number of news media in the Pasco County area and I gave them information regarding the Club. Also, I began communicating with the states attorney and assisted Dee Torgerson-Rismyhr in recovering on the claim made under the Club's fidelity bond. I provided evidence and information requested by the insurance company and advised the Board of the terms of the release required by the insurance company. Fortunately, ASC recovered \$75,000 under the bond, which was the entire amount of the coverage. I am continuing to monitor the criminal proceedings and to communicate with the states attorney assigned to the case.

My other duties this year have included overseeing the vote for ASC's AKC delegate.

It has been a very interesting year and a privilege to work with a diligent and dedicated Board of Directors that acted quickly and met often to deal with the difficult issues faced by the Club.

V) Media/Technology

DVD Sales report and questions from Kathy Reid

## 2007 Final DVD Sales Report

January 2007 Flushing Spaniel Show.

We ordered a total of 42 sets of Cockers only DVD's  
We ordered 9 sets of BOB & BOV DVD's  
And 11 sets of the complete show containing BOB for all Spaniels.

We earned a profit from sales of these orders totaling \$1356.26

There were two sets left unsold for January 2007 and also a couple of sets of July 2006 show that were put in the raffles at the Oklahoma City show.

July 2007 Cocker Spaniel National OK City

We ordered 35 complete sets of the show. These have all been sold and I have orders for one, possibly two, more. I plan to request that the sales information for this show be taken off the website, and close sales on these after filling these last couple of orders, income from these orders will be counted towards 2008 sales.

Profit for the July 2007 show is \$320.90.

Overall profit from DVD sales for the year 2007 is \$1677.24. All Junior handlers at the shows were provided with a free copy of the Junior handling classes and the ASC archives have been given a complete set of DVD's for both shows.

I do have a question to put up before the board. Gary told me earlier this week that several other clubs he works for are now offering personal YouTube videos of a dogs exhibition. Gary charges \$12.00 for this service and recommends that we charge people \$20, to have their dog put on YouTube. Only if they purchase a set of the DVD's. They would then be allowed to offer a link on their personal websites to the clips. Of course it would be a little more work for me, notifying him of people who made the purchase and will need to put a spot on the order form for them to purchase the service and tell us what class and the name of the dog. What does everyone think about doing this?

Gary also said he would bring Walkie Talkies to use to convey the absentees from the stewards table to him during the show. I think this is a great Idea, now we won't need a runner. Does this sound okay to the board?

Dee is taking care of the narrators.

After discussion, Nancy Foley moved to order a DVD of the July 2007 show to send the Duding family and also, in the future, to provide conformation judges a DVD of their video-taped assignment. Seconded by Mrs. Torgerson-Rismyhr. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Ward moved to approve the use of walkie talkies during the show. Seconded by Mrs. Gallant. Approved.

W) Therapy Dog Program – Mrs. Nelson

Time flies it has been nearly 4 years since our last exhibit although locally we have sent fliers to some of the newbies. Members and non members have been very good about sending stories to the ASC Bulletin about their favorite experiences with their dogs at work with patients and children that love the Therapy Sessions. So many more cocker owners have become aware of how useful the dogs are to so many of the infirmed and lonely. It is heart-warming and the dogs and the patients certainly are better off for their visits.

I will not be attending the 2008 Spaniel Show. Time constraints and travel plans have not meshed well and I find myself having to choose between here and there. I wish everyone a Healthy Happy New Year and pray that we find the cause of so many illnesses that plague our breed. Three of my dogs passed away from diseases that are all too common, in the past year. Please relay to the members that Melanoma Research proved successful in that FDA has approved a vaccine that inhibits the tumor growth and prevents Melanoma. One of my boys missed his chance to get the vaccine by 2 weeks. We asked for advanced assistance but it was not yet available to the public.

I wish a wonderful 2008 for all, and hope to see you in July.

X) Top Dog Committee - Dr. Saari and Dr. Grim.

As most cocker fanciers know this work has been my true labor of love for well over 50 years. Some new problems arose with changing from printed page to CD for the AKC awards. but these have been largely resolved. Largely due to the efforts of my co-chair, Dr. Jeanne Grim we had a well attended dinner with recognition of the top dogs in breed competition, agility, obedience and field work. Again Dr Grim produced a lovely booklet of the dogs being honored. We look forward to continuing this at each summer national specialty.

Submitted by Dr. Saari

Y) Versatility Award Plaques – Mrs. Moskala.

There was one Versatility Award application in 2007:

CH MACH GARDIAN ANGEL IN DISGUISE TD, owner Jane B. Mohr.

There was one Performance Versatility Award application for 2007. This was returned due to incomplete records.

Expenses incurred were \$6.40.

Open item: The ASC board needs to determine what the design will be for the Performance Versatility Award and what will be engraved on that plaque.

Motion by Mrs. Virostreck, seconded by Mrs. Torgerson-Rhismyr to make the design for the Performance Versatility Award the same as the Versatility Award and change the wording to Performance Versatility Award with the appropriate titles. Motion approved.

12. Zone Director Reports

Zone I – Mrs. Larson.

Mrs. Larson reported that she had held two meetings in March and April, and had kept the membership informed the rest of the year via the Zone yahoo group. She said she had learned a lot and expressed appreciation for the support she had received from other board members.

Zone II – Mr. Skinner.

Greetings fellow ASC members; I would like to start by thanking the members of Zone II for allowing me to continue to represent them on the ASC Board. Even though 2007 will go down in history as a trying time for this great club, history will also recognize the valiant efforts and generosity of its outstanding members to rally together in support of a grand institution. Again, my thanks go out to each of you for your contributions large and small, both monetary and otherwise. This club's membership is by far its greatest asset.

The coming year will continue to offer challenges to each of us as we move forward in our efforts to safeguard the integrity of the breed, and protect the sport of showing dogs. We are faced with seemingly unending attacks from extreme animal rights activists, endless legislation put forth by poorly informed politicians that threaten to force us out of existence, and unscrupulous breeders who give all of us a poor reputation in the public eye.

I look forward to what 2008 has in store for ASC and the continued opportunity to serve the members of Zone II. I encourage any member to contact me with their concerns. I would also like to add, if you are a member of Zone II and you are not receiving email updates; please email me at the following address:  
[lochlomondkennel@msn.com](mailto:lochlomondkennel@msn.com)

Zone III – Mrs. Gallant

A Zone III meeting was held on September 28, 2007 at the Detroit Cocker Spaniel Club. I have also held meetings in Ohio and Illinois. The discussion was on an update of what was happening with the embezzlement charges. We also discussed a 4 day show in January with members wishing to think about that concept for a while. The merle issue was also discussed and many were concerned about this color being accepted by AKC. Some health issues were discussed. There was a lot of support for the board and what they have had to do during this trying time. I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to come to these meetings and assure everyone that I will continue to serve in the member's best interest. If anyone has questions, please email or call me.

Zone IV – Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris stated he was going off the Board but wanted the Board to continue looking at the statistics. He believes ASC needs to keep and encourage performance events.

He looked at statistics from AKC which showed that in 1947 30% of AKC registrations were Cocker Spaniels, today, it's 1.3%. Cocker Spaniel litters are down 30%; registrations are down 18%.

He cautioned the Board of the need to support AKC and expressed support for our new AKC Delegate, Mrs. Virosteck and urged her to participate in the workshops and caucuses the day before the Delegates' Meeting.

Zone V – Ms. Elliott

Ms. Elliott recapped the successful National held in her Zone in July 2007 and wanted to publicly thank all the Zone V members whose hard work contributed to the show's success.

Mr. Ward moved to approve all the reports as presented during the morning. Seconded by Ms. Elliott. Unanimously approved.

The Board then recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:11 p.m. to consider the rest of the agenda.

13. New Business

A) Without objection, applications for membership and election to membership were passed to executive session.

B) Life Membership for the members with continuous membership for 25 years:

Four members have completed the required term of membership: Don Harris (WA), Olive Kawamura (HI), Rosemary Logrie (CO), Susan Roman (GA)  
Mrs. Virosteck moved to grant these individuals Life Member status. Motion seconded by Ms. Elliott. Unanimously approved. Mr. Ward then thanked Mr. Harris for his service to ASC and recognized his service as excellent.

C) Donation to Rabies Challenge Fund – Mrs. Larson

Mrs. Larson described the challenge study sponsored by Dr. Jean Dodd and 2 others and urged the Board to support the research since Cocker Spaniels often have adverse reactions to vaccinations. She requests the Board appropriate \$500-1,000 as a donation to help support the research. Mrs. Torgerson-Rhismyr suggested that the Foundation should be the source of the donation. The Board referred this request to the Foundation which last year funded a rabies study.

D) Disposition of Committee Chair records – Mrs. Campbell

Mrs. Campbell reviewed the goal that within ninety days the show chair should have a report to Board. And all committee chairs should provide a written summary of their committee activities to be included.

A major concern is negotiating the next contract with a superintendent. Need to have a far more specific contract, with considerations like credit for unused rosettes when upgraded ones are purchased.

The Secretary requested that the Board authorize purchase of Show Trial Manual for the January chair, two July chairs and the July liaison. Mrs. Virosteck moved to

purchase and distribute these four manuals. Seconded by Mrs. Pike. Motion approved.

E) Boykin Spaniel.

Discussion of whether this breed is a flushing spaniel which should become part of the Flushing Spaniel Show when they move from Miscellaneous Classes into the Sporting Group. The consensus was to research and come back with a report and decide if to invite to show.

14. At 1:40 p.m., Mrs Campbell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Elliott. Approved.

**TO DO:**

Detailed line item report for July 2007 show – Harmon, Jane

Contracts for 2009 show – Fairplex, Hotel – Harmon, Jason/Virosteck/Born

New domain names for breed referral and rescue – Duggan/DeLisle/Bell

Bulletin reminder on steps to nominate and enroll puppies - Patterson

Futurity Rule language change concerning breeders remaining in good standing – Carter/Fehring/Patterson

DVD for Duding family – Reid

DVDs for January 2008 conformation judges – Reid

Design choice for performance versatility award communicated to Mrs. Moskala – Patterson

Rabies challenge fund donation followup – Larson

Superintendent contract for 2009 show – Campbell/Born

Boykin Spaniel – Patterson