

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

DATE: Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 9:00 A.M., Eastern Standard Time.

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

DRAFT AGENDA

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by President Charles Born
2. Roll call of members present.
Charles P. Born, President and Chairman of the Board,
David Donaldson, First Vice-President
Julie Virosteck, Second Vice-President
Linda Pitts, Director, Class of 2010
Bonnie Pike, Director, Class of 2010
Marilyn Spacht, Director, Class of 2010
Dee Torgerson-Risomyhr, Director Class of 2009
Bettie Campbell, Director Class of 2009
Calvin Ward, Director Class of 2009
Xiomara Larson, Director Zone I
Tony Skinner, Director Zone II
Nancy Gallant, Director Zone III
Stephanie Kaul, Director Zone IV
Sharon Elliott Director Zone V
Jane Harmon, Treasurer, ex officio
Kathleen Patterson, Secretary, ex officio
Linda Moore, Legal Chair, ex officio
3. Guests: Regina Beinhauer, Zone II Assistant Director; Quinn Ruvacava, Zone IV Assistant Director; Barbara Shaw, Zone V Assistant Director; Doug McFarlane, July 2009 Show Chair; Marleta McFarlane, July 2009 Assistant Show Chair.
4. Report of the President – Mr. Born

Welcome Board to our final meeting for the 2008 club year. I want to thank each one of you for your contributions to the ASC as Board members. Because of your ability to work as a team toward common goals – it's been a pleasure to serve as your President. There are too many who contribute so much to make this club work to single out any for special mention, but I need to send a brief thanks to Kathy and Jane for their weekly support to me and to David Donaldson and the finance committee for their support in helping me get financial processes and controls in place. I knew when I accepted the nomination as President it would be a challenge for me to balance ASC responsibilities with my other personal and work

commitments – and I was right. It was. But, with your support we got some things accomplished – and you should congratulate yourselves.

Clearly our job is not done and I'm going to need your support for 09. In my opinion, we face challenges and opportunities as a club and as a Breed that must be faced squarely and dealt with. Let me review just some of these with you briefly. We will address some of these in today's meeting – others will take the new year and beyond to resolve.

While we are not in crisis – I'm sure the coming year is going to be tight financially. We need to budget – and so I am asking the 2009 Finance Committee to draft a working budget for us to manage the club by. Estimate income from all sources – dues, fund raising, shows, etc. And estimate expenditures – shows, activities, sponsorships, general and administrative, etc. Let's balance and then make decisions based on finances as much as on need. If we could have the budget for 09 by our spring meeting that would probably serve us well.

We need to refine the membership application process – some items on today's agenda will hopefully address this. We need to have a credible membership process but not one that puts the Board as judge and jury.

Communication – Never enough – always a criticism of the Board. But, I think the Yahoo Group was a big step in the right direction and I think if monitored and supported it will continue to create a connected "community" which I think is what ASC is lacking given our geographic diversity.

Legislation continues to be an issue...as it affects our hobby and sport – and our dogs – and it's getting increasingly negative. Combine this with the proliferation of dog registration sites and the challenges of the AKC, the startling increase in cocker 'hybrids' suggested as legitimate breeds, the tail docking issues that are global, the Merle issue which still is quietly lurking, the financial collapse of many small clubs in an increasingly smaller US based Cocker breeder population and the proliferation of the internet and global community with attendant issues and opportunities.. Each of these has their own complexities and it will take an activist Board and membership to address them.

M&M – Membership and mentorship – This membership is the past, present and future of the Cocker Spaniel. If we do not continue to reach out and be inclusive of performance as well as confirmation – and teach and support members in all types of programs – and create an ASC community that lives beyond our current Life Membership – there will not be a club as we recognize it in the future. Today's suggestion of awards we will consider from Xiomara's committee, the programs Stephanie and Nancy G put on for members in Indy, the Zone Rep Yahoo groups – each of these and more are what it will take to keep this club vital. We made some

great progress this past year, and it will need the ideas and support of this Board and the membership to make it continue to happen.

Yes, it's a grand old club – with long history that we continue to document through our archive committee. What will future archive committee's say about this generation of Cocker Spaniel fanciers and ASC members? Change and evolution is more than just ideas. It takes responsible people to implement them – and get them done. Every club faces that need and we are not alone. But, hopefully through your leadership we can create an environment that encourages participation and encourages membership. Let's try. So on to today's agenda as another step in building our future.

5. Report of the Secretary – Ms. Patterson.

During the interim since the last Board meeting two votes were taken and need to be placed in the record.

First, on September 23, 2008, it was moved by Mrs. Spacht, seconded by Mrs. Kaul, to approve the minutes of the July 2008 Board meeting as submitted.

Yes: Donaldson, Virosteck, Campbell, Pike, Pitts, Spacht, Ward, Larson, Skinner, Gallant, Kaul, Elliott.

Abstain: Rismyhr.

Second, on September 29, 2008, Mrs. Virosteck moved, seconded by Mrs. Kaul, to authorize Mrs. Campbell as January 2009 Show Chair, to obtain the same blue carpet as used

in July 2008 from the Indianapolis vendor to use for the January 2009 show. Votes were to be returned by Thursday, October 8, 2008.

Yes; Donaldson, Virosteck, Pike, Pitts, Spacht, Rismyhr, Ward, Larson, Skinner, Gallant, Kaul, Elliott.

Abstain: Campbell

We also received a request from the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Finland to translate the Blue Book into Finnish to use in educating their breeders and judges. The President gave permission providing that they would use an addendum about the length of tails in their country rather than changing the wording in the body of the Blue Book.

I received a quote from our Bulletin printer on reprinting the Blue Book from the copy of material Wilma Parker sent me. The cost is approximately \$2.00/book whether the quantity was 500 or 1,000. The printer advised that if we had the original disk, the copies would be better and the cost of reprinting cheaper. That disk is unavailable. Subsequent to getting the bid, I discovered Wilma has most of the original artwork in the archives so it's possible we could get a better copy than originally thought. One question before reprinting is do you want to reprint the booklet as is or do you want to revise it to include the tail directive you adopted last year?

I also received an email requesting to establish a PMT in memory of Al Blue to be awarded to the Black Winners Dog at the National Specialty Show. They would like to purchase a cocker figure as the trophy and have engraved plates with

the winners name placed on the base. They would also like to offer it this July since Tiina Blue will be attending the show. We have no actual physical trophies representing any of the July PMTs because of the difficulty of storing and transporting trophies.

The Board instructed the Secretary to contact people wishing to establish the PMT and explain the logistics and offer to work with them to effect their wish.

6. Report of the Treasurer – Mrs. Harmon.

TREASURER'S REPORT
JANUARY 2009

Our current account balances are as follows:

Unrestricted Funds

Checking Account	\$42,749.19
Money Market Fund	26,785.74
Fidelity Cash Fund	<u>11,448.65 *</u>

Total Unrestricted Funds: \$80,984.18

Restricted Funds

Fidelity Accounts (PMT's)	\$95,209.70
Certificate of Deposit	<u>82,739.98</u>

Total Restricted Funds: \$177,949.68

- In my November Treasurer's Report, I used the wrong account to report the balance in the Fidelity Cash Fund. I used the account for Greer PMT by mistake and should have used the cash account balance. It makes no difference in the bottom line as the balances would have been the same, but more would have been in restricted and less in unrestricted funds.

We have to date collected \$6545.87 from our previous Treasurer. These funds are distributed to us monthly via the Florida Department of Corrections and deposited into our Money Market Fund and these payments are included in the above balance.

We are hoping to have a report from the auditor for the January meeting. I know, we've heard this song before, but we have been promised a report for January. We'll see!

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Harmon, Treasurer

Mr. Ward expressed the Board's appreciation to Mrs. Harmon for her work over the past year under difficult conditions.

7. Unfinished Business

A) Tail Directive, revisited.

The Board discussed the statement it adopted at the July 9, 2008, meeting regarding judging the Cocker Spaniel with a natural tail. The Board decided that Dr. Grossman and Mr. Anderson deserved the courtesy of formal reply from the President. Further, the directive, with background and explanation will be shared on the Yahoo ASC membership group list. But the consensus of the Board was that this clarification did an excellent job of clarifying that this was a docked breed and answered questions that arise in each judges' education session.

B) Awards Committee – Mrs. Larson

Mrs. Larson presented her committee's report on a proposal for Breed Recognition Awards. Her committee consisted of ASC members: Xiomara Larson, Chairperson, Kristi Ahiquist, Elaine E. Mathis, Dr. Jeanne Grim, Carolee Douglas

The Board would appoint a committee to be responsible for creating a Hall of Fame for cocker spaniels as producers and in performance areas. This committee would consist of five (5) ASC members, preferably 3 conformation and 2 performance members, or members with a combination of these backgrounds. Its purpose would be to establish ASC member recognition awards that will recognize dogs and bitches that have made outstanding contribution to the cocker spaniel breed. Awards will be considered in producing ability and performance achievements.

Ms. Larson presented an extensive outline of the kinds of criteria that would be considered in recognizing these achievements for ASC member dogs by designating them as (ROM) Register of Merit. Since AKC uses the terminology "Recognition of Merit", the Board asked Mrs. Larson to check into the process AKC uses to include the ROM club titles on a certified pedigree.

These awards would be announced in July with applications due mid-February. After considerable discussion, the Board asked Mrs. Larson's committee to clarify the interaction between these awards and others now offered – Top Dog awards in July, Versatility and Performance Versatility awards in January, etc. and come up with a proposal to avoid duplication. The sense of the Board was that the current committee should work through the exact process what the application would look like, what proofs would need to be submitted, what timetable would be followed. In addition, the committee should identify the coordinator and provide a one page summary of process.

The consensus of the Board was that the producer Hall of Fame is where these awards should start. And that the goal would be to make the first awards at the July 2010 National.

C) Standing Rules for Membership Votes – Mrs Kau/Mr. Born

Mr. Born presented a new standing rule to be used if there is an objection to an applicant. The feeling of the Board was that, if there was an objection to a membership applicant, the Board needs to hear not just from the Zone Director and from the person objecting but must also allow the person applying to speak to the Board with their side of the objections raised. With this change - an applicant with an objection is tabled for vote until the applicant responds to the objection (with explanation) either in person at an executive session of the Board - or in writing - and until the Board is satisfied all questions and sides of the issue have been explored - including perhaps further questioning of the complainant (who remains anonymous to the applicant) - no vote is taken on the application.

Mrs. Kaul presented a second change to the standing rules that would have the ballots counted by a subcommittee after the Board meeting without results being announced until the membership chair has notified all applicants in writing.

It was moved by Mrs. Virosteck, seconded by Mrs. Spacht, to add these 2 procedures to the standing rules. Unanimously approved.

8. Reports from Standing Committee Chairs and Show Committee Chairs

The Board accepted reports from the following committee chairs. (As said reports are to be published in the March Bulletin, they are not reprinted here in their entirety.)

A) AKC Delegate – Mrs. Virosteck.

The Board was not in favor of the AKC's shift in thought to follow FCI language and change the current groups to ten. The Board directed the President to write a letter the Delegate could read at the next meeting expressing the overwhelming support of the Board to retain seven groups.

B) AKC Gazette Columnist – Mrs. Tukua.
C) ASC Archival Work Group – Mrs. Parker.
D) ASC Health Registry – Mrs. Iby.
E) ASC Rescue – Ms. Braun.
F) ASC Website – Mrs. Bell/Mr. Delisle

G) By-Laws Revision – Ms. Moore

Ms. Moore reported that she would be sending the newly adopted bylaws to AKC on Monday.

H) Canine Legislation – Mrs. Dixon.

The Board discussed the fact that it has become increasingly evident that canine legislation is becoming a problem. While the club cannot be seen as legislative activists, it can "educate" the public as to why crop and dock. They asked the canine

legislation and public education committees to work together to educate pet owners of the need to help with legislators to protect their right to own purebred dogs.

The Board also discussed whether an amendment to the articles of incorporation was needed. But, decided that club members could do education and advocacy now.

- I) Cocker Spaniel Breeder Referral – Mrs. Frye.
- J) Cocker Spaniel Standard – Mrs. Speich.
- K) Education –
 - 1. Mr. Ennis/ Judges' Education
 - 2. Mrs. Gallant/Breeders' Education
 - 3. Mrs. Duggan/ Public Education.

Mrs. Spacht moved to accept the previous reports as submitted. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Virosteck. Unanimously approved.

- M) Finance – Mr. Donaldson

Mr. Donaldson reported that the audit had been completed that complied with the bylaws but that the finance committee felt that in the longer term the club needs a better auditor who will work with club. It was suggested that the committee check with the former secretary, Mrs. Mustard, to see if there was a retired CPA in her complex who could be retained to do the internal audit for this fiscal year.

The finance committee will be developing a budget to serve as an umbrella and to deal with major projects. They are looking at the possibility of using a project application with periodic reporting by the committee so the Board has a better handle on project expenses and income.

The committee also suggested the President send out to the membership Yahoo group the financial controls adopted by the Board even though they were published in a Bulletin last year.

- N) Insurance – Mr. Steffen.

Mr. Steffen reported that he had looked into rider that would cover ASC member clubs but was told that was not a possibility under the current policies. However if the member clubs formed a group or association it would be possible for that group to get certificates for all clubs that were part of the association. The Board needs to inform the clubs and address this issue on the ASC membership list

- O) January 2009 Show Chair – Mrs. Campbell
- P) January 2009 Futurity Chair – Mr. Carter.
- Q) July 2009 Show Chair – Mr. McFarlane.
- R) July 2009 Futurity Chair – Mr. Fehring

- S) July 2008 Show Financials – Mrs. Foley/Mrs. Harmon

Mrs. Harmon reported that the bottom line is a loss of \$2,885 but if education costs are deducted, the loss on the show is \$2000. That compares to a profit of \$17,000 in Oklahoma. The Board suggested publishing the show financials to ASC yahoo group.

- T) Legal – Ms. Moore
- U) Marketing/Media – Mrs. Kaul
- V) Performance Events – Ms. Ruvacava.

- W) Purina Futurity Coordinator – Mr. Fehring
- X) Therapy Dog Program – Mrs. Nelson
- Y) Top Dog Committee – Dr. Grim

During the discussion of Dr. Grim’s report the Board took several actions.

The Board felt they needed to make it official that there is/will be an awards dinner at every National Specialty show and the Secretary was instructed to put that statement in the National Show Manual.

The Secretary was directed to inform Dr. Grim that everyone at the dinner should get a Top Dog catalog so the Board felt it needed to be less expensive. Catalog printing to be approved through M&M committee which can assist Dr. Grim in accessing less expensive printing sources.

Mrs Pitts moved, seconded by Mrs. Pike, that there be an awards banquet at each July National Specialty show. Approved.

Mrs. Virosteck moved, seconded by Mrs. Rismyhr, that every paid attendee will receive free B/W program of that year’s winners at the banquet. For those not attending or wishing extras copies, they may be ordered. Motion approved with Mr. Donaldson dissenting.

Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Mrs. Rismyhr, to authorize rosettes for the 2009 Top Dogs costing no more than \$400. Approved with Mrs. Gallant dissenting.

- Z) Versatility Award Plaques – Mrs. Moskala.

Mrs. Spacht moved to accept the foregoing reports. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kaul. Approved.

9. Zone Director Reports

Zone I – Mrs. Larson.

Zone II – Mr. Skinner.

Mr. Skinner gave an update on the 2010 National Specialty show in Richmond and asked for approval of his committee chairs.

JULY 8-11 2010 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Show Chairman

Tony Skinner

Assistant Show Chairman

Tom Dowell

Futurity Chair	Jim Fehring
Facility/grounds Chair	Tony Skinner
Tack room set-up Chair	Linda Donaldson
Obedience Chair	Gwen Gore
Agility Chair	Felicia Mazur
Hospitality Chair	Tom Dowell
Judges' Hospitality Chair	Marilyn Spacht
Catalog sales and information table Chair	Neville Ward
Chief ring steward	Jane Williams/Sharon Elliott
Trophy Chair	Joan Kasper/Pam Shiflett
Advertising/Publicity Chair	Elena Duggan
Spectator seat reservation Chair	Penny Hoover
Vendor Chair	Terri Voss
Transportation Chair	Calvin Ward
Breeders Seminars	Nancy Galant
Judges' Education	Bob Innis
Fund-raising Chair	Kathy Reid
Hunt test/Field Chair	Venee' Gardner
Chief Announcer	Lloyd Alton/Diane Kepley

Mr. Ward moved to approve the committees chairs as listed. Seconded by Ms. Elliott. Approved

Mr. Skinner also asked for approval utilize Rau Dog Shows as Superintendent and consensus of the Board was to hire Rau Dog Shows.

- Zone III – Mrs. Gallant
- Zone IV – Mrs. Kaul.
- Zone V – Ms. Elliott

Mrs. Kaul moved to accept the Zone Reports. Seconded by Mrs. Elliott. Approved.

10. New Business

- A) Applicants for Membership and Election to Membership Without objection, this item was moved to executive session to be dealt with by secret ballot and the Board meeting recessed for said executive session.
- B) Life Membership for the members with continuous membership for 25 years: Lori Findley, Nancy Gallant, Jane Harmon, Kathleen Patterson, Cindy Rabe, Sandra Steiner.

Motion by Mrs. Spacht, seconded by Ms. Elliott, to grant life membership status to these members with 25 years of continuous membership. Approved.

- C) Membership Categories – Mrs. Pitts/Mrs. Virosteck

Suggest instead of having full membership can be associate member without voting privileges for a certain number of years and would need to have at least one instance of volunteering to demonstrate commitment to club. Person could not automatically join as a full member.

The Board formed a committee to come back with specific recommendations at the April meeting. Linda Pitts, chair; members, Calvin Ward, Jane Harmon, and Bonnie Pike.

D) Purina Sponsorship

Mr. Born reported that Purina has communicated that they do not want to sponsor continue to sponsor two shows and that the January show is particularly problematic because their manpower is committed to the Florida cluster all-breed shows. In addition, no other club receives two Futurity Alliance trophies. Mr. Born was to meet with our Purina representative during the show weekend and report back.

E) Cocker Spaniel Cookbook

Mrs. Harmon reported that the cookbook cost \$2800 and, to date, she had collected \$700+ but expected additional income this weekend. The Board felt we need to market it a bit more and suggested adding it to the Shop ASC page.

F) Other Business –

Based on the Possibility of Purina pulling out of the January show, the Board discussed adding sweepstakes to this show and holding a sweepstakes in January and a Futurity in July. This would involve changing the futurity rules to have only one futurity in July. This would allow for a Best In Sweepstakes for all flushing spaniels at the January show.

The Board formed a committee to investigate the possibilities and report back at the April meeting. Chair, Tony Skinner; members Bettie Campbell, Sharon Elliott, Tom Dowell, Dee Rismyhr.

G) Other Business –

Mrs. Virosteck asked to revisit the standing rule for membership votes that had been discussed earlier in the meeting. (See item #7C) – She moved to change the wording to permit the applicant to be informed of the nature of the charges and the name of the person who filed the complaint. Motion seconded by Mrs. Campbell. Approved, with Mrs. Gallant dissenting.

11. Adjournment moved by Mr. Ward at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen L. Patterson
ASC Secretary

Approved March 21, 2009.