

2017 Annual Delegate Report
Submitted by Jane Bjork

This report marks my first year as your delegate. Major issues throughout the year included disaster relief for pets (a donation is currently being considered by the ABC Board of Directors for the AKC Reunite General Relieve Fund to help with Hurricanes Irma and Harvey and western wildfires), AKC Canine Health initiatives, animal rights threats to our livelihood, reinstatement of disqualified dogs (vote was tabled at the September delegate meeting) and declining pointing breed and conformation entries. On the plus side, the introduction of several new titles and activities and recognition programs are in place, and litter and dog registrations are on the increase.

One issue I will work to improve is finding the balance between a lack of information and duplicate information. In this age of instant communication, AKC has all our emails. Often the AKC sends out a communication within a day of my communication, and I experienced duplicates of information from our previous delegate as well. AKC sends emails to people with registered animals from a variety of AKC departments. The result is a bombardment of information. The risk of too much information is that, like the overuse of "breaking news", we begin to ignore it.

Also, email and social media are in competition with the paper magazine format. Most times, social media beats paper. Once, it was the other way around! Case in point: I reported on AKC's dissatisfaction with the current state of Limited Registration as reported by Carmen Battaglia at the June 2017 delegate meeting in the August ABC Magazine. Yet, in September, Facebook exploded about this news from people who get the magazine. In this case, the magazine beat Facebook. Moral of the story- read your magazine, and check in with your delegate (jjflanagan@aol.com.) I plan to take pictures at the December meeting in Orlando to attract attention to the article. *As an incidental note, the Limited Registration removal was only proposed as an idea for consideration, and got taken out of context. It will remain as a tool for breeders.*

Issues requiring timely feedback need quicker dissemination than the magazine can provide. This year hasn't been a year where quick feedback is needed, excepting the Chapter 11 Section 8A dog disqualification (now tabled) changes. I propose that, for issues between the AKC and ABC where club member feedback is required, there be a cascading distribution list from the delegate to ABC Executive Secretary and the ABC Board, and/or from the delegate to the ABC Executive Secretary and the ABC Board and all regional club secretaries. Regional club secretaries can then send out emails to their members. At this point (my first year as a delegate) there haven't been any time-critical issues regarding the need for quick member feedback. As is stated above, much duplicate communication exists. Yet, Facebook pages and email lists leave some members out. This set up will ensure each member has the opportunity to be informed and give feedback. Additionally, the ABC Facebook site can be a central area of information dissemination in addition to the DualBrittanys listserve.

I would like to create an archive of delegate reports, once published in the ABC Magazine, on the ABC website. In benchmarking with other clubs, the Brittany Health Committee should increase visibility to membership and increase national event presence with Canine Health Foundation/OFA clinics, relevant lecture topics and scientifically sound survey structure. At this time, there is a DNA clinic in the works for the 2017 Nationals.

What feedback do you have for me? Contact Jane Bjork at JJFlanagan@aol.com