

## 2015 ACTION ITEMS

The following News Item includes the action items to be discussed and possibly voted on at the annual meeting November 22, 2015. The complete reports of Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs will be published in an upcoming ABC Magazine. I have included the President's complete report just below. I will list who has submitted each of the action items. If you have questions, please contact them personally.

If you wish to comment on the various action items either for or against, please contact your 3 regional directors. Contact information can be found on the Regional Club Secretaries' page in the magazine for your directors, or on the ABC Website for all officers, directors and committee chairs at <http://clubs.akc.org/brit/> , top of left hand column.

Many of the proposals are listed as discussion topics and may lead to more specific motions so take this into consideration when reviewing the following material.

Mary Jo Trimble  
ABC Executive Secretary

### 2015 REPORT OF THE ABC PRESIDENT

Robert Rankin, MD

September 7, 2015

Well, we got through another year, but it wasn't easy. The BOD has dealt with a number of issues, some of which were related to the length of our last meeting.

Costs are slowly increasing with revenue slowly decreasing. The peak of field trailing has passed and has slowly declined since. The same is occurring in almost all pointing breeds with few exceptions. Since the main sources of income come from dues and field trials, income has decreased as these two things have declined. The increase in dues was warranted but with a number of 3 year renewals, it will take a while to see the final results. Other sources of income could be sought such as increasing the field trial starter fees or requiring an ad in the magazine to get approval to run a trial, etc. Or, we could try to limit expenses like donations to other organizations and the scholarship program. These were all started when we had lots of money. Money problems are facing most pointing breed clubs and are being dealt with in different ways.

Being President of the ABC is much different than the other organizations I've been President of. Most of the calls or emails I get are along the lines of "you need to tell so and so not to do that" and things of that nature. In the past (I was on the BOD for about 23 years) everything was taken care of at the annual meeting. Now, with the advent of emails, it seems that everything has to be done "right now." Our new way of discussing things before a motion is made should be the new standard of how we conduct business. Otherwise we become somewhat dysfunctional. Somehow the president should be allowed to make more of the day to day decisions on his or her own about things he or she knows would meet with BOD approval. So, anyway, I'm going to drift off into retirement and enjoy my dogs and horses, helping with field trials, and judging quite a bit. I'll still be around. Robert A Rankin, MD. President of ABC

### **3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT, TERRY HILLIARD:**

**Policy Book Changes:Page 39, #7:** Change wording to say: The National Specialty Show will be held the week before the start of the National AA. This will allow possible expansion of the NSS in the coming years and not specify days.

**Page 42, #26:** Take out Agility. We have not been able to add this venue to the NSS.

**Action Item:** In April 2103, AKC recognized Barn Hunts as a titled program. The Barn Hunt Tests the traits of dogs. The program is open to all breeds that can fit through an 18# tunnel. The Barn Hunt program is taking off and growing quickly. I would like to look into the feasibility of adding Barn Hunt to the 2016 or 2017 NSS.

### **CENT. DIRECTOR, STEVE RALPH, POLICY BOOK CHANGE & ADDITION:**

**Duties of the Third Vice President** (Policy Book, pg 39)

- change "7. The National Specialty Show events are to be held the Friday, Saturday and Sunday prior to the running of the National Amateur Championship."

to "7. The National Specialty Show events are to be held during the week prior to the running of the National Amateur Championship."

### **4<sup>TH</sup> VICE PRESIDENT, JOHN PERRY:**

**Policy Book Changes** Page 46 #15: The Gun Dog Nationals run approximately 5 weeks prior to the Board meeting and a report on the running cannot meet these deadlines. Without having the information in the agenda book any issue cannot be discussed. This should be changed so any items that need to be addressed from the current years running can be brought to the board for action.

**A couple topics that do need to be addressed are:**

1. Location of the Gun Dog Nationals
2. ADA handlers, use of quads, bracing information/guidelines

Page 46 # 19—"Site selection for the National Open and Amateur Gun Dog Championships must be approved by the Board of Directors." Many members have asked for a more neutral location and/or rotating grounds more centralized.

Page 47 #20—"Money made from the raffle and/or auction for the Gun Dog Championship shall be donated to the Ionia grounds as long as the ABC runs the Gun Dog Championships there. Before a donation to the grounds funds from the raffle and/or auction, each of the Gun Dog Nationals must break even." Discussion was held as to keeping any money made, if break even status is achieved, in an account to offset and deficit in future running of the Gun Dog Championships. Many people are interested in

working on fund raisers but not if the money will be sent to Ionia grounds. Why is this a different arrangement than the All Age Nationals?

Page 157 #7—“The statistician is to compile the list of qualified dogs for the National Open, National Amateur and National Gun Dog Championships and send to the editor and Executive Secretary.” Over the past few years, that I am aware of, the Gun Dog Field Trial Secretary has kept the stats. I just need clarification of who is to do it and the policy book should reflect the same.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/SECRETARY, MARY JO TRIMBLE, ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Add to the duties of the Hall of Fame Chairs (both dog and people) to furnish the Magazine Chair a biography to be published in the ABC Magazine of those people and dogs elected each year to the ABC Halls of Fame. Since the ABC Secretary is to take minutes of the annual ABC Membership Meeting, I would add to the Policy Book Section for the ABC Secretary to receive nominations, conduct the election for Life Members at the Membership Meeting, and also present a biography to the Magazine Chair for publication of those members elected to Life Membership.
2. Reaffirm that the Membership Database should be overhauled by Linda Langford with input from an Ad Hoc Committee headed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and consisting of The Executive Secretary, Secretary, Membership Data Chair, Magazine Committee Chair, and Membership Promotion Committee Chair with others to be consulted or added as deemed necessary or beneficial to the project to assist Linda Langford in covering all bases regarding this program proposal.
3. I would like to propose that the ABC open an official ABC Yahoo Group for posting to member's notices, AKC actions, BOD actions, and referrals to the ABC Website and/or AKC website for more details to keep the membership more informed. This group would be for posting only with no discussion which has always been discouraged by AKC as internet fights do not encourage or promote new people to join our clubs and often create discord among the membership. The BOD has directed Facebook to only post notices to the ABC Website where no discussion takes place, but members are not in the habit of regularly checking the website, and we as officers are often criticized for posting to public discussion groups and/or Facebook. Signup and change of email addresses would be up to the individual members. I would be happy to add this to the duties of the Ex. Secretary as I serve pretty much in that capacity for the BOD anyway.
4. We need to add to the duties of the Ex. Secretary, Section # 5, page 53 of the policy book the following: ***Members who belong to Regional Clubs in more than one region or a region different from their residence shall notify the ABC Executive Secretary prior to August 1 each year in which region they wish to cast their ballot. This notice shall be published in the Magazine, on the Website, and Facebook (and ABC Yahoo Group if that proposal is accepted) prior to July 1 each year. If no notice from the member is received, then a ballot will be sent based on the member's state of residence. Members who belong to only one Regional Club will receive a ballot based on that Regional Club's Region.*** It is very time consuming to have to deal with this issue after the August 1<sup>st</sup> date and should be the members' responsibility rather than ABC trying to find in the membership list all these overlaps and trying to contact the members each year to determine their primary region. We do have members who live in one region and belong

to only one club in a different region and ballots have ALWAYS been sent based on that Club's Region so that will not change.

**TREASURER GERILYN SENNOTT ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Currently we are reimbursing the clubs on a quarterly basis. Any club reimbursement which is less than \$20.00 will be carried forward to the next quarter until their check reimbursement exceeds the \$20.00 limit. Reasoning is that a check written for \$2.00, mailed and then usually misplaced as it is not deposited promptly then needs to be replaced at a later date. The cost is much more than the check written.

2 All club reimbursement checks must be deposited in a timely manner. After one (1) year after issuance date, the check will be voided and no replacement check will be issued. Hank Hartnek

**POLICY BOOK CHAIR, HANK HARTNEK:**

I would like the Board to consider sending future Agenda Books to Officers and Board members in electronic format. 2 – 3 copies could be sent to the Nationals for the club house and show. This would save time and money, \$300 - \$400 per year.

At the Board meeting, the Agenda Book could be projected for all to see. A projector would have to be purchased. It could be paid for in 2 – 3 years from the money saved not printing and sending out the Agenda Books.

A copy of the Agenda Book should also appear on the ABC website not just the Action Items

**EC DIRECTOR, DARLENE DOW:**

**ACTION ITEM:** Electronic transmission of the agenda book.

**AKC DELEGATE, JUDY TIGHE:**

**Action item: Set up a 501c3 fund and ABC donate \$500 for a Disaster Trailer and request club members donate.**

**FOUNDATION CHAIR, JIM BRIGHAM:**

**ACTION ITEM:** The ABC President shall present a nominee to the ABC Board to appoint an ABF Board Member as John Henderson's term will expire.

**Action Items from Steve Ralph:**

## **CENTRAL DIRECTOR STEVE RALPH: ABC Policy Book changes & additions:**

### **Dog Of The Year** (Policy Book, Table of Contents & pg 148-150)

- change all occurrences of "National Dog of the Year" to "Dog of the Year"
- change all occurrences of "National DOY" to "DOY"

## **ETHICS COMMITTEE CHAIR, Jim Brigham:**

The committee has been inactive this year. A misunderstanding of the procedures by me has caused a delay in Board action on these recommendations.

- Policy Book Article I deals with membership. We are proposing to amend Article I Section 2: Termination of membership and Section 3: Suspension of Membership to reflect the recommendations of the AKC Sample.

These amendments must follow Article IX Section 1: Amendment of the Policy Book. The first step requires that an amendment be submitted to by a referendum vote by mail, (a) when authorized by the BOD or (b) by a written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by at least 25 members in good standing, no more than 5 being members of the same regional member club. Section 2: Within thirty days after authorization, the Secretary shall mail to every member, entitled to vote, a copy of the proposed amendment or amendments together with an appropriate ballot, and shall specify on the ballot a day certain, not less than thirty days after such mailing, on which the polls shall close. Ballot must be signed. Must be voted on by 1/4th of members and must receive 2/3rds yes vote. Authorization is by the BOD.

**Action Items:****Motion 1:** I move that the Board authorize a vote on the proposed amendment modifying the procedures for terminating memberships. To save on mailing costs, I further request that Secretary postpone the mailing until the fall mailing for directors.**Reasoning:** It is more specific in dealing with any debts owed to ABC

**Motion 2:** I move that Section 3's title from Suspension of Membership to Discipline of Members. Further, that the Board adds C – it would describe how the Board would deal with a member preferring charges against another member. To save on mailing costs, I further request that Secretary postpone the mailing until the fall mailing for directors.**Reasoning:** To better describe the process by which the Board would determine the appropriate disciplinary action against a member. This would give the Board the same authority that its regional clubs are granted in B.

**Motion:** I move that the Board adopt the following proposals for an Ethics Policy for Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs of the American Brittany Club.

1. Members of the Board, Officers and Committee Chairs will conduct the business of the ABC in good faith and with honesty, integrity, due diligence and reasonable competence.
2. No Board member or Officer shall share, copy, reproduce, transmit, divulge or otherwise disclose confidential information related to the affairs of the ABC. Each Board member will uphold the strict confidentiality of all executive sessions and other deliberations and communications of the Board deemed confidential.
3. Members of the Board, Officers and Committee Chairs will exercise proper authority, fairness and good judgment in their dealings with all parties.
4. Directors and Officers of ABC must at all times act in the best interests of the ABC and not for personal or third-party gains or financial enrichment. When encountering potential conflicts of interest Board members, Officers and Committee Chairs (refer to page 14 of the Policy Book - ABC Policy on Conflicts of Interest) will identify the conflict and as required, remove themselves from all discussions and voting on the matter,
  - Avoid placing (and avoid the appearance of placing) one's own self-interest or any third-party interest above that of the ABC.
  - Do not abuse the position of authority given to you by the ABC by improperly using that authority for personal gain or third-party gain or pleasure.

Complaints of misconduct or conflict of interest may be made by any ABC member or a party dealing with the ABC or its regional clubs. Under most circumstances, the complaint will be received by the President or the Secretary of ABC.

Discipline procedures will be taken as set out in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition

Chapter XX Disciplinary Procedures Offenses Elsewhere Than in a Meeting; Trials or the most recent revised edition.

**EAST CENTRAL DIRECTOR, DARLENE DOW ON ETHICS, ACTION ITEMS:**

1. We need to add the language for the CHIC recommendation passed.
2. I would also like a statement added that the ABC does not condone cross breeding.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR, JUDY GRAVES**

**ACTION ITEM #1: We request a motion be made to add to the duties of all event chairs that funds received for activity other than entry fees is turned over to the treasurer within 30 days of receipt.**

**ACTION ITEM #2: We request a motion be made to appoint Mary Karbiner to a full 5 year term as a member of the Finance Committee.**

**ACTION ITEM #3: After review of the 2016 budget submitted, we request a motion to approve the budget with any revisions made during board review.**

**EAST COAST DIRECTOR DARLENE DOW ON FINANCE:**

**Finance Committee:** Discuss reimbursements in general, phone, internet etc. receipts?

**EAST CENTRAL DIRECTOR, BRIAN HENDRICKSON ON FINANCE:**

**Action Item:** All ABC expenses and or reimbursements should be required to have receipts for reimbursement.

**Per Steve Ralph:** Please add the following item to the 2015 ABC BOD Agenda.

**Central Director Futurity Committee Member, Steve Ralph on Futurity improvement discussion (starting 2016/2018)**

1. Change the Futurity format from running three sectional events (Central, East, West) to running three futurity events (All Age, Gun Dog, Show) with the corresponding National events.
  - a. The All Age Futurity would be run in conjunction with the National All Age Championships on the same grounds.
  - b. The Gun Dog Futurity would be run in conjunction with the National Gun Dog Championships on the same grounds.
  - c. The Show Futurity would be run in conjunction with the National Show at the same site.
2. Change length of field heats from 30 minutes to 45 minutes or 1 hour

## **FUTURITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR, KAREN HANSON ACTION ITEMS:**

Over the summer, members of the ABC Board sent in suggestions for improvement to the futurity program. The 2014/2016 futurity actually has 35% more litter nominations as compared to the 2013/2015 year. It would appear that futurity participation is on the upswing. The futurity program is one of the few programs where participation is limited to ABC members, and is one of the only programs that make money for the ABC year after year. The way the futurity program is currently run fits in with our mission, “**The purpose** of the American Brittany Club is to promote cooperation and friendship among the breeders and owners of a Brittany and to encourage the highest standards in breeding, training and showing of Brittanys in the field and in the show ring; to discourage the breed from becoming split into groups of "field dogs" and "bench dogs" and to strive to keep it forever a "dual dog".

I personally have competed in the futurity off and on for almost 30 years. I've seen highs and lows, but found that having a National futurity run off heightened the importance of the event. My personal feeling is that the futurity program is not broken, but can be improved if the National Club gives the program more importance and cache. I also believe that as a breeders' stake, the breeders should be highlighted, which is something that up until now has been sorely lacking. With the last committee's pursuit of trophy donations, I think the program can and will be giving more emphasis to the actual breeders. I am especially happy to see the “showcase of dams” on Facebook. I think it really gives the program a lift and makes the membership want to participate.

I do think the clubs need support in putting on the futurity. Most clubs put on a futurity on an infrequent basis. They need to know what they are allowed to spend and they need a helping hand. I think it would be beneficial to have a member of the futurity committee be a liaison to the club putting on the futurity. That would hopefully help stop some of the Monday Morning micromanaging that has plagued the program in recent years.

If we want to make the futurity a national event – I believe that the actual events will run better... in that you have a continuity of people running the events, and facilities in place to put on a quality event. That would lower the number of events and most likely would lower the actual number of participants, and most likely would lessen the appeal to “new” members who come to the events as their first real exposure to the field and show.

I also think it's time to look at why we are so afraid of “AKC” for the futurity program. AKC allows clubs to have special attraction events, and my understanding the charge to have a “special attraction” is \$15.00. The special attraction is considered to be a separate event. (See Beginner Puppy completion at dog shows, hunting dog stakes at field trials).

I think it would be an excellent idea to poll our futurity participants and breeders from the past two years to ask them what worked for them and what didn't. We are very concerned about the American Field registrations associated with the futurity or the lack there of. If the participants in the futurity do not want to register their litters or dogs with American



Field, are we bringing any extra value to the participants by running the field events under American Field? What value to the participants does running the stake under American Field really bring?

Several members have suggested the following changes:

- If we move to one futurity, having the gun dog futurity with the gun dog nationals, the all age futurity with the all age nationals and the show futurity with the national specialty show. Other members have opined that this will make it harder to have a “real” dual dog, as many of the dogs that entered the gun dog stake would not want to make a second trip to the national specialty show, therefore giving the all age dogs a decided edge. A possible way to change this would be to have the futurity show with the summer specialty.
- Several members of the committee have recommending keeping the three-futurity set up, however, since the entries in the all age futurity have been steadily declining in years, combining the all age and gun dog futurities into one futurity field stake. They feel that this would highlight the “best” dogs, in a bigger pool of entries. Concern has been expressed that the gun dog futurity is currently a walking stake, and the resulting problems of bracing foot handled gun dogs with horseback handled all age dogs, perceived judging bias towards the “all age dog”, and that many people who enter the gun dog futurity will not enter their dogs under this set up.
- Possibly change the stake from 30 minutes to 45-60 minutes.
- Explore the possibility of running futurities on the weekends or Friday or Monday to encourage more people who “work” to come.
- Explore ways to better reward the breeders of the futurity dogs as this is a breeders stake
- Have a show futurity run off or “maturity” at the National Specialty
- Steve Ralph has proposed that instead of having a field futurity run off, we instead have an ABC derby-style invitational, which would include futurity field winners and placers from the regional futurities and dogs that have won or placed in significant derby stakes such as the Victoire Nationale, or dogs that have met a qualification standard based on numbers of wins or placements. This would be a single stake made up of gun dogs and all age dogs.
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**DOG HALL OF FAME CHAIR, KENT PATTERSON:**

**Based on the review criteria and voting process outlined in the ABC policy, the following dog received a majority vote through two rounds and is submitted to the Board of Directors as an ABC Dog HOF candidate.: Bourbon XIII**

**EAST COAST DIRECTOR DARLENE DOW ON THE ABC MAGAZINE:**

**Action Item:** 1. Bringing back an editor. 2. Add Facebook banner to the magazine much like the website banner

**MAGAZINE COMMITTEE CHAIR, EAST COAST DIRECTOR, BOB FLEURY ACTION ITEM:**

"Include CHIC certification ( # along with Pin Hip & OFA #s as one of the numbers meeting the) requirement for placing an ad in the magazine."

PLEASE NOTE: Wording in ( ) verified by phone with Mr. Fleury as a clarification for what will be printed in the Agenda Book.

**(EAST CENTRAL DIRECTOR BRIAN HENDRICKSON ON THE ABC MAGAZINE:**

Discuss ABC magazine editor position. Also explore budget cuts for magazine expenses, move it from general expense under general fund to a specific magazine budget.

**EAST COAST DIRECTOR BOB FLEURY ON MEMBERSHIP LIST:**

**Action Item:** I would like to have a board discussion at the meeting to go over the process of receiving, recording and distributing the membership, both as a membership list and/or a mailing list. The reason for the discussion would be to explore ways to make this process run more efficiently. Presently the program and site that is being used for membership is not owned by the ABC and that should be discussed also.

**EAST CENTRAL DIRECTOR BRIAN HENDRICKSON ON MEMBERSHIP LIST:**

Initial dues renewal notice should be sent via email by the membership data chairperson and an additional follow-up phone call or email after the post card from the membership committee.

**POLICY BOOK CHAIR, HANK HARTNEK ACTION ITEMS:**

Once again I am recommending the entire Book be reviewed and revised. This is slowly happening but if all officers and committee chairs would participate, we could accomplish the revision much sooner. I would therefore like the BOD to authorize the Policy Book Committee to formally request a review and update of their particular areas of responsibility.

**OLD Business: FORMAL APPROVAL OF BOD E-MAIL VOTING**

ABC Motion & Vote - To Perform External Audit with Substitute Amendment  
ABC Motion & Vote – To Accept 2015 Revised Operating Budgets  
ABC Motion & Vote – To Add the CKC to List of Futurity Recognized Registries  
A BC Motion & Vote – To End First Class Mailings to Contributing Editors

### **NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **EAST COAST DIRECTOR, DARLENE DOW MISC. ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Duties of Directors: Current: Directors should be committed to attend all possible trials in their region and visit with the members in order to stay in touch with the people of their region.

\*\* change the wording from “to attend all possible trials” to attend all possible events in their region and ABC sponsored events.”...in keeping with the mission of a dual breed.

B. Remove the requirement that regional clubs must hold an all age stake at their field trial.

C. A timely way to communicate to members instituting the 2007 AKC language for e-mail communication. Date changes like obedience and open all age that happened this year should be communicated. A member shouldn't have to search and stumble across the changes.

D. The above 2007 motion that was never put into the policy book. Since it wasn't put in the policy book, but seems to have become accepted operating practice, it should be revisited. **Re-address the original motion:** Compensation to webmaster, accommodations for all age nationals for executive secretary and compensation to membership data chair. This was on my agenda last year and was never addressed.

E. Change language from wives to spouses any place it appears in the policy book i.e. judges for AA & GDN guidelines.

F. Have a vote of the standing BOD to approve the current year BOD meeting minutes prior to Dec. 31 of that year.

#### **EAST CENTRAL DIRECTOR, BRIAN HENDRICKSON ON TRIAL REQUIREMENT:**

ABC requires all ABC clubs when running a trial to have AA stake. Not all clubs and grounds are capable of this. This requirement should be removed.

#### **EAST CENTRAL DIRECTOR, RON GULEMBO ON DISCUSSION TOPIC:**

After much thought, I would like this BOD to consider having a ½ hour workshop, presenting items for the next year's BOD to be discussed prior to the official start of each BOD meeting. I'm thinking that there might be items missing from the official agenda, which could be introduced during the year between meetings, and with internet, conf calls, Skype, etc., the BOD could discuss, and possibly resolve those items.

Some items that might not show up for the 2015 meeting:

1. Communication between Directors – responses out of respect
2. Communication with membership
3. Policy Book updating
4. Information on Events
5. Handbook for Directors, Officers, and VP's

### **CENTRAL DIRECTOR, STEVE RALPH ON EMAIL MOTIONS:**

**Email Motion Guideline:** (pg 15 - add after POLICY ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

- a. Email Motions are for emergency, time sensitive and housekeeping issues only, all other issues should be added to the agenda for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.
- b. Issues considered for Email Motions should first be presented to the Board of Directors for discussion and determined if a Motion is necessary.
- c. If Email Motion is determined to be necessary, then a Second is required and the President will announce to the directors & executive secretary that the Email Motion discussion & voting process should proceed.

### **WEST COAST DIRECTOR, ROBIN TOMASI ON BYLAW & POLICY UPDATE:**

**Motion:** Approve use of email notification guidelines provided by AKC following instructions in AKC memo dated January, 2006.

"Clubs may send members notification of club meetings (also included would be dues notices; minutes and newsletters) and board members notification of board meetings via email provided that: The member or board member has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication. Such authorization, which is revocable, will also release the club from any liability should the notification be received late or not received by the member or board member due to circumstances beyond the club's control."

**Motion:** Update policy to incorporate AKC approval of e-mail communication for use by Parent Club Board of Directors, and follow procedures to update the bylaws. See AKC memo dated February, 2007.

**Motion:** Update policy & bylaws to incorporate AKC's procedure on Electronic Balloting for AKC Parent Clubs. See AKC memo dated September, 2013 regarding Electronic Balloting for AKC Parent Clubs.

### **WEST COAST DIRECTOR, ROBIN TOMASI ON AKC AWARDS:**

Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>

Information on the program:

THE AKC OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD  
<http://www.akc.org/clubs/promote/akc-outstanding-sportsmanship-award/>

Participate in the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award, and establish protocol for membership to nominate members for this award, and other AKC awards which currently include; Breeder of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Awards (Conformation, Companion Events, and Performance)

### **Outstanding Sportsmanship Award**

In 2006 the American Kennel Club established the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Program in an effort to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members. Each member club is provided with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis. This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship

### **Lifetime Achievement Awards**

The American Kennel Club Lifetime Achievement Awards were established in 1998 to honor our Fancy's best. The purpose of the awards is to celebrate those individuals whose many years of dedication have led to significant contributions to our sport on a national level.

### **Breeder of the Year**

Each year, The American Kennel Club recognizes and celebrates an outstanding purebred dog breeder with the Breeder of the Year Award. The award honors those breeders who have dedicated their lives to improving the health, temperament and quality of purebred dogs. At a special presentation held during the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show, a breeder, or pair of breeders, is recognized in each of the 7 Groups. At the conclusion of the presentation, one of the 7 Group recipients is chosen as the Breeder of the Year.

### **Criteria**

- ABC and AKC member in good standing for the recognition year, as well as the year in which the individual is being nominated.
- Medallions are awarded solely at the club's discretion.
- Active and valued member of the ABC who has made an outstanding contribution.
- Must be involved in and a made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs in AKC events.

**Nominations** Please submit nominations for the individual you feel embodies an Outstanding Sportsman to the ABC Secretary prior to March 1st with a bio and photograph of the nominee. Bio's will be distributed to board members for review. The Board will review all applications and seek clarifications from endorsers if necessary. The Board reviews and discusses all submissions and votes on the nominees. The individual receiving a majority of the votes will be deemed the recipient of the award. There is only one recipient of this annual award. The decision of the board is final.

Sample AKC Award Submission Form

Award:

- Outstanding Sportsmanship Award
- Breeder of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Awards (check one)
  - Performance
  - Conformation
  - Companion Events

Nomination submitted by (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ABC Member Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

In a brief summary, using the criteria above, please write a 500 words or less summary on why you feel this candidate should be considered for this award. Attach any supporting documents to this form.

Return this form and recommendation to:

ABC Secretary: [secretary@TheAmericanBrittanyClub.org](mailto:secretary@TheAmericanBrittanyClub.org)

## **WEST COAST DIRECTOR, ROBIN TOMASI ON MEDIA & ARCHIVE COMMITTEE.**

### **Action Item:**

#### **MEDIA & ARCHIVE COMMITTEE**

Establish a committee with the objective of investigating the feasibility and practicality of effectively and economically archiving records of the ABC and the Brittany breed.

The archives committee assists and advises the American Brittany Club (ABC) on all archives and records-related matters to ensure the preservation of and public access to information of historical value held by ABC.

Determine what needs to be archived, what to retain for a limited period of time and what to purge.

Develop a list of possible archive items and procedures/protocol.

Develop program and procedures to collect information valuable to the ABC Archives.

Create a list of pictures, and print items that we do not have record of and find catalog and archive these items.

Get rid of the antiquated idea that we need to be the purveyors of all Brittany records and that some places out there already have the information and we can search it. Also that we should be contributing to these sites and making sure they are correct.

Standardize templates, programs, and design so that all media productions have a format conducive to their respective audience and production (social, print, web)

Help regional Clubs to standardize and publish information in a timely manner and be able to transfer this information to National publications (social, print web). Explore digital submission of results in an attempt to establish database and decrease errors and omissions.

Create a single place, for patrons, to search for information about the breed.

## **WEST COAST DIRECTOR, JOE GOWER ON MOVING GUN DOG NAT CH:**

I have been urged to explore a rotation or change of venue for the Gun Dog Nationals by many in the west coast constituency with consideration for the following rationale:  
Consider a more central and neutral site or, a rotating venue that allows for greater access to amateurs across the country that are a predominant participant base in gun dog stakes, and consideration for a late spring running rather than fall that is in close conflict with the All-Age National venue.

## **WEST COAST DIRECTOR, ROBIN TOMASI, MISC. ACTION ITEMS:**

**Motion:** Update ABC Pay Pal account to remove Janet Chase's email from invoices.  
Recommended deadline of January 31, 2016

**Motion:** Add Quarterly BOD videoconference or teleconference to annual meeting schedule.

**Motion:** Change the distribution of the dues increase between the National and Regional Clubs. The \$50 shall be distributed \$35 to ABC and \$15 to the regional club.

**Agenda Item:** All memberships to run from July 1 through June 30th, and establish transition fees.

Moving to this method would simplify the record keeping for ABC and Regional Clubs and provide an idea of the annual dues revenue in time for budgeting purposes for the annual November meeting.

**Motion:** Page 29 of policy book delete: "Each regional date's coordinator shall receive a stipend annually, subject to the approval to pay for printing and postage to send dates schedules to their regional clubs."

- Utilizing email delivery will be a cost savings of \$300 a year.
- The schedule is also printed monthly in the ABC magazine as well as being posted on the ABC website. The ABC Facebook periodically posts a link to the ABC calendar.

**Motion:** Page 91 of policy book: Any expenses incurred by ABC for the Classics/Summer Specialty are to be deducted from any corporate sponsor funds received by the host club.

- Cost savings
- This brings policy in line with the Futurity as all ABC incurred expenses are charged against the host club of the event prior to reimbursement.
- This policy change would not impact ABC providing a one page ad free of charge to host clubs, or the recording fees clubs for publishing of results in magazine. Host clubs are not charged recording fees for the events.

**Motion:** Provide digital version of the magazine to be available to club members. Members may opt out of receiving their magazine via USPS.

- I have received numerous requests from members requesting digital delivery option
- Costs would be minimal to make digital magazine web friendly