



ESAA Board of Directors Meeting – Via Teleconference April 5, 2011

On the call: Janet Gray, Mary Coldiron, Sandy Miller, Cheryl Heithaus, Kathy Cunningham-Roy, Denise Gilley, Judy Mates, Bob Stevens, Julie Quirk, BJ Parsons, Judy Graef, Judi Hunter, Lanore Matter, John Nielsen & Jan Carlson
Guest for part of the call – Donna Jordan

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm.

Secretary's Report

Sandy Miller reported that she will contact Mr. Maurice Mauner, CPA to see if he is willing to collect the ballots and tally results for our 2011 Board of Directors elections again this year.

Sandy reminded everyone that she is the AKC breeder referral and she has recently been getting a lot of inquiries from people looking for English Setters. A brief note will be placed in an upcoming Newsletter to remind breeders to let her know if they have any available puppies.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Coldiron stated that she received ESAA's taxes from our CPA, Mr. Ed Sledzik. She will review them and then follow up with him. They are due 5/15/11.

PayPal has been activated for the ESAA 2011 National Trophy Fund.

Mary will be scheduling a compliance review with Ed Sledzik for sometime in late May, after his tax season ends. She will report back to the Board.

Our bank accounts will be switched from PNC to a national bank after Mary reviews our options. She is looking toward Bank of America or Wachovia.

The current balance sheet, as of 4/5/11, was distributed to all board members. Mary commented that with over \$15,000 in the education fund, we need to determine the best ways to use this money. Janet stated that Sandi McCue is working on this. Our health and genetics account is also amply funded and we have the money to fund a study or research. Janet stated Michelle Raisor is looking into options for us.

2011 National Update

Donna Jordan reported that the entry closing date will be Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Fees will be \$30 for first entry and \$20 for each additional entry by the same dog.

Agility was scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2011 for English Setters only. However, since we only anticipate ten or so entries, it is just not cost effective to hold an English Setter-only trial. Therefore, the decision was made to cancel the English Setter only Agility at this year's National specialty. There is an all-breed agility trial scheduled for Oct. 22-23 in the area. For those English Setter agility enthusiasts who wish to participate, ESAA will recognize qualifying scores and high in trial at the annual banquet on Oct. 28, 2011. Donna will follow up with Paula Spiering to see if it's too late for ESAA to make trophy donations for English Setters at the all-breed trial. Judy Mates commented that she and Dave had donated the High in Trial trophy, so that was available and should be offered. All the agility information will be added to the ESAA website and Facebook

The board also discussed the need to have an agility chairperson. That person could develop a core team of agility enthusiasts who could either take responsibility for the agility trial at future ESAA Nationals and/or act as a resource for the host club. We will contact Donna Richardson, the agility chair from our 2010 National to see if she can help.

Donna asked for clarification on how many award of merits would be offered. It was decided that this year there would be five award of merits offered (at the judge's discretion), in addition to Select Dog and Select Bitch. All seven of these winners will receive their ribbon as well as a picture frame, which the board agreed to at their October 2010 Board meeting. Further study will be done on whether, in the future, we should offer a set number of AOM winners, or whether it should be based on the total number of breed entries. John Nielsen will provide the board with a study that AKC did on this subject.

Donna said that they are still looking for someone to act as judges' hospitality coordinator. That person would follow up with the judges on their travel itineraries; take them to dinner, etc. Judi Hunter commented that Sherrill Neudahl had offered to do this awhile back. She suggested to Donna that someone follow up with Sherrill.

Sandy has received all the signed judges' contracts. Janet commented that Houston Clark made a note on his contract that with airfare prices continuing to go up, it's hard for a judge to sign a contract a year ahead not knowing how high his/her expenses could go. Janet said that we should consider raising the judge's fee amount at sometime in the near future.

2012 National Update

Janet has not signed the hotel contract yet, but is expecting it in the mail any day now.

We do not have the superintendent contract in place yet, but if Onofrio is too high, Jill does have a back-up plan ready.

Karen Kennedy will be working on the 2012 judges and has her judges' committee ready to assist. They include: Deb Jauron, Chris Reedy, Jennifer Radonis, Conny Helms and Julie Bremser.

Donna was also thrilled to say that Denise Gilley has offered to redo the National Guidelines for her. Thanks to Denise for this huge undertaking.

Medallions for Non-AKC Events

Mary Nowak sent a proposal to the board that we consider offering medallions for those people who do not do conformation, obedience and hunt tests with their dogs, but rather other things – such as therapy dog, Canine Good Citizen, etc. Mary thought we could offer the ESAA medallion (not engraved) and also list their accomplishment in the ESAA Newsletter. Harvey wondered how much it would cost to have the name engraved. It would require more investigation because some engravers charge a flat amount while others charge per letter. We would also have to see if Mary would be willing and able to handle the additional work that would be involved if the medallions had to be sent out for engraving. Everyone liked the idea. Janet will go back to Mary to investigate the cost a little bit more and they will write a clear proposal of just who would be eligible for these medallions, etc. This was tabled for now.

Meadowlands Specialty Association (MSA) Reconciliation

Kathy Cunningham-Roy reported that, as of now, our net income was \$2,627.03. However, she's still waiting to finalize the raffle prize expense so it might be slightly less, although still over \$2,000.

AKC has contracted to back this show for a total of five years, and we're now one year down. Their goal is that by the time the contract expires, there will be experienced people within MSA who can take over the show from AKC. Kathy said that they are expecting next year to have more breeds & vendors come back that were lost over the fiasco of the 2010 show. She said the MSA group worked well together this first year. There was nothing hidden, everything was run very diplomatically and voting was done on any necessary issues.

The raffle that Kathy spearheaded was an excellent money maker. It really helped make the MSA a profitable show for ESAA.

DNA Testing at the 2011 National

Dick Fox submitted information on the DNA Collection Clinic that is scheduled for this year's National. He listed his projected expense of \$841, which included \$400 for bandanas. The idea is that each dog donor would receive a bandana for their participation and they would wear them around during the week to indicate that they participated in the DNA program. Dick hopes to get the supplies donated, but submitted the budget as is, in case he does not get a firm commitment. The Board liked the idea of the bandanas but thought paying \$400 for them was an extravagance we didn't need. Therefore, Bob Stevens made a motion that we remove the \$400 bandana charge from the budget and then approve the budget of \$441. The motion was seconded by Lanore, there was no opposition and the motion passed.

Membership Status

Coleen Raber asked for clarification on a family membership. Can we increase the age of children under the family membership to 21? What if an adult child is living at home?

Sandy stated that the ESAA By-Laws state that a family is listed as a husband and/or wife or legally registered household and their children under the age of 18. Therefore, we would have to change our By-Laws to change the family status. Janet decided to take this matter offline for now. She will investigate further and get back to the Board.

ESAA Supported Specialties

Due to the limited amount of time left for the Board call, and the urgency with some other subjects, it was decided to skip over this subject for now. Janet will send an e-mail to the Board with a proposal on this subject. She did mention that this was an exciting new idea and that we had several regional clubs that are interested in hosting such additional supported entries.

Newsletter

Due to the limited amount of time left for the Board call, and the urgency with some other subjects, it was decided to skip over this subject for now. Janet will send an e-mail to the Board with a proposal on this subject.

2011 Annual Bid

We have received a price quote from Cathy Hill to do our 2011 Annual. She did not have any significant price increases. Kathy said that Cathy is creative in her ways of keeping the cost down – from working with the printer, to bundling pages/ads, even offered options on the cover – maybe try a soft vs. hard cover, etc.

The question came up again – Do we want to produce an annual each year? We tried a bi-annual several years ago. Judy Graef made the motion that we would like to have an annual in 2011, which will be produced in 2012. Lanore seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Annuals are very expensive to produce and expensive for club members who want to place ads & even buy the annuals. Lanore and Kathy volunteered to serve on a committee to look at alternative “think outside the box” ways to possibly help save money/reduce costs.

Cheryl stated that we should not just accept Cathy’s bid without at least trying to get other bids as well. She wanted the membership notified that we are accepting bids for the annual. Janet recommended we put a message on the website and she would also send an e-mail to the membership asking them to notify us if they’d be interested in submitting a bid to publish the annual.

BAER Testing

Jane Wooding notified us that she received submissions for the BAER database, whereby the tester was also the breeder/owner of the litter. Jane made the following proposal and asked that the ESAA board endorse this policy:

“If the tester is qualified to do BAER testing under our current standards (see footnote below), then the tester should be allowed to test, diagnose, and submit tests that they have done on their own dogs. This same vet/owner/breeder could test, diagnose, and send a BAER test to OFA and, at this point in time, it would be accepted. If the tester does not meet the tester qualifications, then the submission(s) will not be accepted into the ESAA BAER Database.”

Testing qualifications that we currently use are identical to those used by OFA – “It is recommended that BAER tests be performed by board certified veterinary neurologists, but also acceptable are test results from experienced veterinarians, neuroscience professionals, and audiologists.”

Cheryl objected. She felt we must have some check and balance and therefore, it should not be allowed. Others commented that Jane can read tracings and would be able to tell if something did not look right. If OFA would accept the test results from a qualified tester, why shouldn’t we, regardless of who that tester is?

Kathy made a motion that we accept Jane’s proposal and Lanore seconded the motion. Everyone approved the motion with the exception of Cheryl who voted “no”.

Web Progress

Due to the limited amount of time left for the Board call, and the urgency with some other subjects, Janet just stated that we have a contract in place with someone who will be working on our website and that progress has started.

ESAART

Janet wanted to better understand how ESAART was formed and its relationship to ESAA. There seemed to be a misunderstanding with just what ESAART is handling. In a communication from an ESAART board member, the member stated that ESAART was strictly a rescue trust and not a rescue organization. Her comments did not agree with the Mission Statement that was provided by ESAART to the Board last fall at the Board's annual meeting.

The members who were on the Board during the ESAART formation period stated that that is not what ESAA agreed to. John Nielsen stated that the formation of ESAART was twofold: 1) to have them set up as a tax exempt status of a 501(c)(3) which would allow for people to make tax deductible donations, and 2) to protect ESAA and its Board from liability. ESAART would carry their own liability insurance.

It was expected that they would be the rescue organization for ESAA. Judy Mates stated that the Board did not agree to ESAART being simply a rescue trust. It was formed as a rescue organization for English Setters, encompassing all aspects of English Setter rescue

Since they rely on ESAA members to do the rescue work, we would like assurance that they are carrying liability insurance and our members are covered.

We agreed to and expect that ESAART is our rescue organization.


Denise stated that we need to add expectation that ESAART build a network. Mary said that ESAART is working on their policies & procedures and we need to disseminate to all the local clubs so they can become part of the network.

The Purina Parent Club Program (PPCP) donates ½ their proceeds to CHF and ½ to ESAA to be used towards health & genetics, education and/or rescue. Mary Coldiron made a motion that we determine the PPCP allocation on a year-by-year basis, depending on where the greatest need is at the time. The motion was seconded by Cheryl. All board members approved this motion, with the exception of Jan Carlson, who abstained from the vote

The ESAA board looks forward to seeing the following from ESAART: 1) their rescue network, 2) their policies & procedures, 3) their financing plans and 4) plans for fund. It is our understanding they are working to produce all of these policies at the moment. Janet will keep in touch with ESAART.

Bob Stevens made a motion that the ESAA Board meeting be adjourned. Judy Mates seconded the motion and the ESAA Board meeting was adjourned at 10:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Miller
ESAA Secretary