



**ESAA Board of Directors
Teleconference
March 23, 2018**

In attendance: Colleen Bell, Julie Brimble, Kathy Cunningham-Roy, Amy Duncan, Jane Flynn, Janet Gray, Judi Hunter, Donna Jordan, Susie Kerwin-Bush, Dave Mates, John Nielsen, Anna Quigley, Coleen Raber, Ross Rice, Lori Whorff

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 PM EDT.

Janet opened the meeting by mentioning that we need to come up with a tentative schedule in order to fully commit to some of the rooms and conference rooms at the 2018 ESAA National. She reminded everyone that the final schedule always ultimately depends on the entries. The final decision is always an ESAA decision since this is an ESAA event, even though we try to accommodate the host club's needs whenever possible. Janet also stressed how fortunate we are in having Donna Jordan as National Coordinator, and Dave Mates as Financial Chair for so many years to be able to take advantage of their experience.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to discuss the scheduling at the upcoming 2018 ESAA National in Seven Springs, PA, particularly as it affects the Veteran Sweepstakes and the Top Twenty. National Coordinator, Donna Jordan, sent out a summary to the Board on March 22 for their review prior to the meeting. Donna started with the review of her four scenarios, stressing that the most important factor is how the schedule flows, as well as how it works with the budget.

The current Standing Rule states that the Veteran Sweeps and the Top 20 may not be on the same night, but it does not specify a specific night for either event.

Amy was asked to give her opinion on scheduling as the Top 20 chair. Her view is that it worked best on Wednesday, with Veteran Sweeps being shown earlier in the evening. That would allow the Top 20 committee to decorate for both the Veteran Sweeps and the Top 20. There was a survey included in the Peoples' Choice award in 2017, 72 of which were returned in support of the Top 20 moving back to Wednesday. The survey choices were Wednesday, Thursday, or no preference.

A brief discussion of moving some events to Tuesday occurred. Julie Brimble made the Board aware that only 3 crates were permitted on the Alaska flight to Pittsburgh, and that will be a very real problem for those coming from the Pacific North West for events possibly being moved earlier in the week.

Kathy Cunningham-Roy stressed that the Board's decision should be based on what will make the membership happiest, rather than what is best for a handful of handlers. In light of the problems expressed by Donna in scheduling any additional events on Tuesday, she suggested that her preference was for having the veteran sweeps in late afternoon/early evening, followed by the Top 20.

A Kerwin-Bush/Quigley motion was made to rescind the standing rule indicating that the Top 20 and Veteran Sweeps need to be on different nights. The motion was passed without objection.

Julie Quirk was unable to participate in the call but sent her thoughts via email 50 minutes before the conference call began. Her thoughts were that ESAA has outgrown a three day National and needs to give serious consideration to moving more events to Tuesday as we have done with obedience and rally. Another suggestion was to revisit the practice from a number of years ago where we had events running in two rings at the same time, as we used to do with Obedience and Junior Showmanship in one ring while conformation was going on in another ring. It was decided this discussion will be best suited for the face-to-face meeting in October.

There were expressions of concern regarding the lack of clubs willing to host the National going forward. Currently we have had no clubs express interest to the National Coordinator for 2019 and 2020.

Another point brought up for future discussion is that AKC does not require judges for the National to be licensed,

Dave brought up that Brandywine needs to know what is happening with the "Day of Vision". We discussed the 4 – 6 puppy class, as well as the stud dog/brood bitch classes.

A Kerwin-Bush/Jordan motion to eliminate the 4-6 puppy class at the National was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 EDT on a Mates/Kerwin-Bush motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Coleen M. Raber

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ESAA Secretary