



**ESAA Board of Directors
Teleconference
January 21, 2019**

In attendance: Colleen Bell, Julie Brimble, Lynda Chase, Kathy Cunningham-Roy, Jane Danek, John Fabelo, Jane Flynn, Judi Hunter, Susie Kerwin-Bush, Dave Mates, John Nielsen, Mary Nowak, Anna Quigley, Julie Quirk, Coleen Raber, Lori Whorff.

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Cunningham-Roy at 8:05 pm EST.

Kathy opened the meeting by suggesting we get the 2020 National discussion out of the way first. Her opening statement reviewed the history of how the changes in dates have affected various regional clubs' specialties.

Following Kathy's opening statement, the topic was opened for discussion.

- ❖ Mary Nowak suggested that this one time we make an exception to trying to avoid the Jewish holiday and go with that third week in September rather than the second week. She mentioned that having a week between Michigamme and the National makes it easier for the members in the Mid West to attend both events. Several members agreed to that.
- ❖ Kathy suggested to really push for members to enter the Michigamme specialties the weekend prior to the National and keeping the National dates immediately following, which would be the week of September 7. John Fabelo agreed that having a week in between Michigamme and the National would force members who travel a distance to make a choice between Michigamme and the National.
- ❖ The question was asked regarding when the agility trial might potentially be scheduled. The committee has not checked into an agility facility nor a field events facility until definite dates have been chosen.
- ❖ Combining Michigamme prior to the National would exclude most members who would be flying. Members who are driving would basically be forced to choose between Michigamme's conformation specialties and any field tests which might be scheduled for the weekend following the National. In addition, many members are not able to be away from home for a stretch of 9 – 10 days in which this scenario would result.
- ❖ Several members suggested that ESAA is financially stable, and perhaps this one year ESAA should spend the extra funds to move the National away from the Michigamme specialties to October, despite the great increase in rental cost. There was also a strong feeling that weekend specialties following the National are important to maintain, and this increased cost would be prohibitive to those clubs.
- ❖ Michigamme's members are taking the situation personally since it happened to them just two years ago, but it was pointed out that things like this are unfortunate but sometimes unavoidable.
- ❖ We realize that we, as a Board, have been very inattentive to pending upcoming National dates and deadlines, and we must do a better job going forward.
- ❖ It was suggested that ESAA be responsible for reimbursing any decrease in entries that might occur for Michigamme if the National is the week immediately following their specialty. This suggestion was received with a mixed reaction.
- ❖ Lynda Chase was asked if the week of September 14 for the national was a viable solution for Michigamme, and she indicated that it would work.

- ✿ A Raber/Nowak motion was made to move the 2020 ESAA specialty to the week of September 14. The motion was passed on a 12-3 vote.
- ✿ Gold Country ESF is still interested in hosting the National in 2021, so we will give them an initial draft date of March 1, 2019 with a firm date of April 1, 2019 to present a final proposal to the Board. This proposal should include all major obstacles having been worked out with only minor details to possibly be still unresolved.
- ✿ Coleen Raber mentioned that with the decline in membership in many regional clubs, and the decrease in willing workers, it is becoming more and more difficult to find clubs that are willing/able to host the National. Perhaps it is time to investigate a permanent site and dates that would fit into what ESAA considers ideal. That would become part of the AKC corresponding events calendar which makes the application process easier. It would also allow ESAA to hire judges much further in to the future which would alleviate the stranglehold that any bloc of voters might have on the selection of judges and be more encouraging for a larger membership base to become involved once again in the judges' selection process.

Top 20

- ✿ Amy Duncan had to resign as Top 20 chair.
- ✿ Amanda Ciarravino has expressed interest in the Top 20 chair position. She would still wish to show in the Top 20. It was determined that there would be no conflict of interest since the chair has no involvement in selecting the judges for the Top 20 event.
- ✿ A Quirk/Nowak motion to appoint Amanda Ciarravino as the Top 20 chair was passed on a 14 – 1 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 EDT on a Hunter/Quigley motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Coleen M. Raber

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ESAA Secretary