



**ESAA Board of Directors  
Annual Board Meeting  
Tuesday, September 14, 2021  
Seattle, WA**

**In attendance:** Colleen Bell, Julie Brimble, Lynda Chase, Kathy Cunningham-Roy, Jane Flynn, Judi Hunter, Susie Kerwin-Bush, Mary Nowak, BJ Parsons, Julie Quirk, Coleen Raber, Cindy Rice. Joining remotely via teleconference: Amy Duncan, John Fabelo, Sandy Miller, Joanne Mistler.

A Brimble/Hunter motion was passed to upgrade the Vast conference calling program to allow our absent board members to join remotely.

The meeting was called to order at 8:49 AM PDT.

The meeting started with some opening comments from President, Kathy Cunningham-Roy.

**Secretary's Report:**

- ✿ Coleen Raber summarized expenses for the Secretary's position for 2020/2021.
- ✿ Judges' contracts sent out in 2021 were reviewed.
- ✿ There was a discussion of the conference calling and zoom accounts.
- ✿ The Board voted on 18 electronic ballots so far in 2021, and 19 mass mailings have been sent so far this year.
- ✿ A Hunter/Flynn motion was passed to accept the report.

**Treasurer's Report**

- ✿ Lynda Chase reviewed the balance sheet which included all assets and liabilities. ESAA's balance remains healthy at \$290,516.36. Members should be aware that a portion of this balance is in restricted funds that can only be used for that fund's specific purpose.
- ✿ Lynda expressed appreciation to those who make her job easier.
- ✿ The profit and loss sheet updated detailed income and expenses so far in 2021 for each event held prior to the 2021 ESAA National.
- ✿ The report was accepted on a Nowak/Flynn motion.

**Board Reports – Continued**

**Judges' Selection:**

- ✿ 2019 was the first year of the pilot selection process where names were submitted by Regional VPs and members were able to rank the choices on the ballot.
- ✿ The discussion encouraged Regional VP's to solicit input from their full regional membership, not just clubs.
- ✿ The 1st or 2nd choice of the majority of the voters ended up on the ballot.
- ✿ The process was favorably received and resulted in an increase in participation.
- ✿ This eliminated the result of prior years where a small bloc of members submitting identical names were able to get their judge nominees on the ballot.
- ✿ In 2020, due to a number of COVID-related issues, we went back to the prior system and sent the solicitation for nominations directly to the membership. Not surprisingly, participation dropped off and once again about a

dozen members submitted identical lists of names and were able to secure a spot for their nominees on the ballot.

- ✿ 2021, which is in process, will be returning to the ranking system.
- ✿ Ballot returns under the old system averaged around 40 family memberships and 25 single memberships.
- ✿ Ballot returns under the new system were 52 family memberships and 41 single memberships.
- ✿ There has been about a 2 to 1 ratio for email ballot returns versus paper ballot returns.
- ✿ The new selection process was approved as a pilot only. It was recommended to be adopted as a permanent process for ESAA judge selection.
- ✿ A Kerwin-Bush/Brimble motion was made to for the judges' elections ranking system to be the process used by ESAA for judges' selection going forward. The motion passed without exception.
- ✿ A Brimble/Miller motion to accept the report was passed.

#### **National Coordinator:**

- ✿ Judi Hunter's report summarized all the challenges these past two years with COVID causing cancellations, changes, and shuffling of locations.
- ✿ We are pleased to have National sites and locations in place through 2024.
- ✿ In order to remain on the rotating schedule, a proposal is needed for the 2025 National by a club or interested group from the west coast.
- ✿ A Raber/Flynn motion was passed to strike the requirement for the judge's critique and pictures in the ring. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✿ It was recommended that committee chairs be given some perks for all their hard work. This suggestion was well received. Several ideas were discussed.
- ✿ Clarification was made regarding the specific use of comp rooms.
  - Comp rooms go to judges (conformation, obedience, agility), show chairs, stewards, depending on availability in that order of priority.
  - ESAA pays for rooms for the President, Treasurer, and Secretary from the night before the Annual Board meeting through the Annual membership meeting.
- ✿ A Nowak/Bell motion was made to check into a block of discounted room nights going forward for committee chairs and Board members who put in a lot of work and need to be in attendance before the general membership. Other possible perks can be preferred grooming, preferred room locations in lieu of discounted room rates if they are not available. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✿ It was clarified that the secretary is responsible for handling judges' contracts, double checking that room nights have been reserved, and transportation has been set up.
- ✿ Susie Kerwin-Bush made a motion to accept the National Specialty Coordinator report, seconded by Cindy Rice. The motion passed without objection.
- ✿ There was a Quirk/Nowak motion made to eliminate wording regarding the host club's responsibility to provide a hospitality basket for judges at a cost of no more than \$25. The motion passed with one objection.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **BEAR Follow-up information**

- ✿ OFA does not charge ESAA for inclusion on their data base if it is batched quarterly.
- ✿ OFA is strict in requiring accuracy. Therefore, time is taken to be sure all of the information submitted is correct.
- ✿ Many forms for puppies are submitted before AKC owner registrations are completed. Therefore, she needs to go back to breeders and new owners for completed information.
- ✿ There is no charge for ESAA members when registering a full litter. There is a fee for individual dogs.
- ✿ After having the process clarified which the BAER data chair goes through to verify information for OFA, the Board suggested adding the AKC registered names to the form and eliminating the "if known" language from the AKC registration column on the form. This will encourage all information to be complete before submitting the

data for inclusion in the ESAA BAER data base. As a reminder, anyone who wishes to by-pass ESAA can submit their BAER information directly to OFA for a fee.

#### **2022 ESAA National Update:**

- ✿ Central Carolina requested a potential change in the schedule of events for the 2022 National. The National committee will figure out what adjustments are possible and return to the Board with a scheduling proposal. A Brimble/Nowak motion was passed to table the discussion until more information is available.

#### **2021 ESAA National Update:**

- ✿ Obedience, rally, and the field events were all very successful.
- ✿ The agility was associated with an all-breed agility which also worked out well.
- ✿ More events will be starting later this afternoon.
- ✿ A Hunter/Chase motion was passed to approve the report.

#### **Winter Garden Specialties**

- ✿ Westminster will be in January for 2022 only due to a conflict with the telecasting company which pays for the event.
- ✿ The WGS specialties had to change their venue due to prior facilities being no longer available.
- ✿ The new facility for WGS will be the Stamford Hilton Convention Center. There is more space than in Rye, as well as more restaurants available in the hotel.
- ✿ Dates will be January 21, 22, and 23 in 2022.
- ✿ There was a conflict with an all-breed show for which AKC had to intercede to allow WGS to take place in 2022.
- ✿ In 2023 Westminster and WGS will return to the usual February dates, also at the Stamford Hilton.
- ✿ Choosing judges for WGS has been a problem in past years for the ESAA specialty.
- ✿ The Board discussed several ways to handle the selection of a judge for the WGS ESAA Specialty.
- ✿ Julie Quirk will provide a list of judges to Kathy who were nominated for the ESAA National ballot.
- ✿ A Nowak/Chase motion was approved to accept the report.

**Adjournment for lunch was made at 11:45. The meeting will resume at 12:30.**

**The meeting was called back to order at 12:30 PM PDT.**

#### **Election Process for Officers:**

- ✿ There was a discussion regarding dates for nominations, ballots, returns regarding the election process.
- ✿ The Board is going to investigate the companies provided by AKC who are recommended for the electronic election of officers.
- ✿ Cindy Rice volunteered to get information, with the assistance of AKC rep BJ Parsons, from these companies.
- ✿ It was suggested that we choose a due date that will be used each year.
- ✿ A Kerwin-Bush/Brimble motion was passed for Cindy to investigate this process.

#### **Jan Borchardt Courage Award:**

- ✿ There have been numerous worthy nominees for this award, making it very difficult to select one recipient.
- ✿ The committee determined that an award certificate will be given to each qualifying nominee, and a plaque with their names will be added to the award.

#### **National Specialty Dedication:**

- ✿ In the past shows have been dedicated only to past presidents.
- ✿ Kathy feels there are many others who have given so much of their time and dedication to ESAA that are worthy as well.
- ✿ Kathy asked for the Board members to send their thoughts and ideas to her for a future proposal with criteria.
- ✿ A Raber/Kerwin-Bush motion was made to create a proposal with criteria to honor those who have dedicated much time to the running of ESAA to be memorialized at a future ESAA National Specialty. It passed with 2 objections.

**Meet The Breeds;**

- ✿ Coleen Raber wanted to know if ESAA should consider providing a “give-away” item for the public who attends a Meet The Breeds.
- ✿ The discussion was that ESAA provides very high-quality breed information cards. Some of the larger Meet The Breeds events could get thousands of attendees that would make a separate give-away impractical.
- ✿ A Nowak/Kerwin-Bush motion was passed to reimburse Coleen for products ordered for the Philadelphia Meet The Breeds that had been cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM PDT on a Hunter/Nowak motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Coleen M. Raber*

Coleen M. Raber  
ESAA Secretary