

## June 2018 AKC Delegate Report

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**Canine Health Committee:** Diane Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP - Chief Executive Officer of AKC-Canine Health Foundation, spoke first. AKC CHF now has a platinum rating from Guidestar. Because we are funding many and new grants throughout the year, instead of publishing one issue of the Research Grants Portfolio per year, this will now be released every six months. Link to the most recent one is

<http://www.akcCHF.org/assets/March-2018-AKC-Canine-Health-Foundation-Research-Grants-Portfolio.pdf> and

I attach copy to this email. This is research funded by us, purebred dog fanciers which ultimately benefits all dogs. She also spoke about the AKC Match program, where AKC will match dollar for dollar, donations up to \$250,000 made in support of canine hemangiosarcoma research. So far this year, AKC CHF has funded \$2.5 million in grants. The Tick Borne disease grant has run out but research continues. There are two new genes related to Epilepsy that are relevant to humans as well. Research is beginning on cannabis products for dogs; some dogs have experienced toxicity but likely because there is no information on dosing or application. They are working on a vaccine for brucellosis, which is on the rise. CIV and Lepto are also on the rise so new studies have begun as have studies on levels of drug resistance in heartworm disease. AKC CHF has added a second veterinarian, Dr. Sharon Albright, to help get information out.

Eddie Dziuk updated information on CHIC and OFA. As we all know, CHIC is a database which researchers can use. Beyond the info on CHIC reports, researchers also have access to DNA from each dog if that dog has DNA on file. The best way to ensure that the DNA is useable is to send blood. 10cc is sufficient. Many National specialties have blood collection drives as do some dog shows. This benefits us all eventually.

There was discussion of wide scale gene testing. Many of the testing companies are for profit businesses. In particular, Embark... which has implied that OFA is a sponsor and that they are connected with Cornell. Except for one of the people working at Embark who is a respected researcher who is at Cornell, neither OFA nor Cornell have anything to do with Embark as a business. Other companies are using similar tactics but Embark is directly approaching Parent Clubs in order to make presentations to membership. Many of these companies test for diseases that are not applicable to the breed or there is no information to suggest the gene means anything for any breed. Of note, Mars now owns Optigen, and this is now in the same division as Wisdom.

Carmen Battaglia spoke of the low entry breeds in conformation shows. 80% of these low entry breeds had fewer than 1000 entries last year. Not unique entries, total entries.

**Companion Events Committee:** Made it to the very tail end of this committee. Joyce Dandridge tells me I am on a subcommittee --- I think it's about All Breed Clubs that hold successful obedience trials. I may have reported the best of what we do to her a few months ago, and in truth, our obedience and rally trials are very well run and very nicely attended.

I serve on the **Delegate Advocacy Committee** which met in the afternoon so was not able to attend any other afternoon sessions. This committee is working on developing a large Juniors scholarship not too different

from a Bass fishing challenge for young people. Ellen Hardin and Marge Calltharp are spearheading that and will ask Daphne Strauss about sponsorships.

**Legislative Caucus:** Sheila Goffe spoke again about the 2018 Farm Bill (more later), spoke also about working with Rep Mike Rogers on HR 4577: Domestic canine breeding network to produce explosives detection dogs.

US Senate 2738: concerns standardizing behavior requirements for service dogs across all regulations

USDA will not recognize third party inspections of breeders (this is good—HSUS was hoping to get a foot in the door).

Patti Strand tells us NAIA is working with AKC on the Farm Bill to require health restrictions on retail rescue dogs from overseas. This is directed at dogs coming in for resale and rescue. Requirements to at least equal those for importation of dogs for personal use. The hope is that more than rabies vaccinations would be necessary. Some sort of proof of health checks and vaccinations and a requirement that each dog be signed off by a veterinarian.

Julian Prager suggested that to promote these additions to the Farm Bill, we use the argument of “Fair Trade”; we just want to have the same regulations regarding HEALTH for dogs coming into the United States as those for dogs we are exporting to other countries. The added expense of individual vet checks should be paid in the country of origin. For example, to export an animal from the US to another country, this animal must be examined by a Veterinarian certified by the USDA and then also certified by USDA itself. Also, to export an animal from the US, one rabies vaccination is not sufficient. We need to equalize requirements.

I will share Johnny Shoemaker’s report when he sends it out.

*As an aside, as I mentioned to a few members, suggestions from Patti Murphy regarding FastCAT have been shared with a member of the Coursing Committee, Karen Lee Bowers, who is the delegate from the American Whippet Club and with whom I had dinner on Monday. Earlier in the day I mentioned one or two of these concerns also to Dominic and he told me they are already being addressed, but Karen is the person to pursue them.*

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*And now for Johnny Shoemaker's report. I've removed a lot of extra stuff that does not really relate to the delegate meeting and to our club. Don't tell Johnny 😊*

**This year's Delegate meeting was preceded by the AKC Educational Summit.** This summit was open to Parent and All-Breed Clubs, and was very well attended. I'm happy to report that at least 1/3 of the attendees were club members other than Delegates, and there were several licensed club representatives there in addition to the AKC member club representatives. I think this meeting was much more valuable for the non-Delegates because much of what was presented was information that Delegates see and hear about often. The non-Delegates that I spoke with were unaware of much of the great stuff that AKC is doing, and the breadth and depth of the departments at AKC. This summit included presentations on:

- The Evolution of Dog Shows and Events (Doug Ljunggren, AKC EVP of Sports & Events)
- Club Development (Glenn Lycan, AKC Dir. of Event Operations Support; Guy Fisher, Manager of Club Development; a panel of successful event chairs)
- Juniors (Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC VP of Sports Services; a charming panel of active Junior participants)
- Breed Preservation (Mark Dunn, AKC EVP)
- Club Communications (Brandi Hunter, VP of Communications & Public Relations)
- Public Education (Ashley Jacot, Public Education Manager)
- Government Relations (Sheila Goffe, AKC VP of Government Relations)
- AKC Canine Health Foundation (Dr. Diane Brown, AKC CHF CEO)

The summit was recorded, and will be broadcast on AKCTV, as well as by logging in to [www.akc.org/edsummit](http://www.akc.org/edsummit). In addition to this educational opportunity, AKC will begin presenting an AKC Education Webinar Series in 1-hour sessions. Anyone may join in these webinars. Upcoming webinars will be Club Development on 6/27 at 8:00pm Eastern; and Public Education on 7/25 at 8:00pm Eastern. More info can be found at [www.akc.org/public-education/webinars](http://www.akc.org/public-education/webinars).

**By-Laws Committee.** The first item was the report from sub-committee on term limits, including survey results. Dr. Gregory Paveza chaired this sub-committee and reported that he had received 278 responses to the questionnaire, with 277 useable responses. With using 580 delegates as the base number that is a response rate of 47.8%, which is not bad. Given the option of an unclassified board serving a five year term of the 277 responses 69.3% (192 responses) did not favor this option. At the question of term limits the By-Laws Committee was to look at recommending a change to the current term limits what would you prefer? Those 277 responses stated that 36.5% or 101 responses would like two consecutive terms with a full term of four years off before the person can again seek a position on the Board. 25.6% or 71 responses stated that they would like two consecutive terms with a year off before again seeing a Board position which is the current By-Law. 24.6% or 68 responses stated they did not want term limits. After all this information it was the vote of the By-Laws committee to leave the term limits as is since it most likely will not get the 2/3 votes and after many times before the Delegate Body it has not passed in the previous times presented.

Registration issues such as DNA were discussed. Mark Dunn spoke on this and said that frequently used sires programs (FUS) already exist with 2% exclusion a year from this program. The FUS requirement was implemented to obtain DNA profiles from the dogs with the greatest impact on the AKC stud book. Almost 90,000 samples were submitted during the first year of the requirement. Of the litters registered during this period 45% were sired by FUS. I looked up on the AKC site and found this information which I thought was

fascinating. Through December 31, 2016 the AKC collected over 709,000 DNA profiles in its database. The AKC DNA database has samples from 243 AKC and FSS breeds. The Labrador Retriever (54,006) headed the top ten breeds that are AKC DNA profiled followed by the Yorkshire Terrier (45,080) second and my breed, the Poodle (33,069) in fifth and the Beagle (19,680) in 10<sup>th</sup> place. In 1998, when the program for DNA profiles began, 89% of the litters tested had correct parentage, within 5 years the level of correct parentage had improved to 95% where it has been relatively constant ever since. Over 590,000 samples have been submitted to date and are done on a voluntary basis and/or to satisfy AKC DNA requirements.

**Parent Club Committee** Parent Club is chaired by Pat Laurans. Some of the items discussed with AKC Marketplace being one with the most interest. Peter Piusz and Steve Pessah (AKC) spoke on this. Most people want the Parent Club listed first but lots of the general public do not know what a Parent Club is. There was a suggestion to change the name to National Breed Club. At the present the Breeder of Merit is listed first. These people with BOM can register free and sometimes they are Breeder of Merit-but not on the breed they are listed for. The placement of the Parent Club Rescue is last on the list and most clubs want that higher on the list.

**Mari-Beth O'Neil spoke on the Juniors Program.** She spoke on the Junior Ambassador Program which seeks to encourage and recognize Juniors for their participation in club activities beyond that of event participation. Juniors, who complete at least six activities from at least three categories, will qualify for the designation, "Junior Ambassador". Eligible participants will be recognized with a unique pin. After completing activities from the list, Juniors will complete a participation form (signed by a club officer or parent/guardian) as well as provide photos of their experiences to the Juniors Department and a pin to commemorate each year they have been active in the program.

**Glenn Lycan spoke on the Club Development** department and what it can do for Parent Clubs and for all clubs including independent Specialty Clubs. Glenn and Guy Fisher's department can send out an email blast to people in that club's area regarding their club and any events that club may have. They will also help with the development of a flyer to go out via email if the club wishes. Also discussed was that some breeds do not have a National Specialty Club. Lots of those are small entry breed clubs and newly recognized clubs. A good idea also discussed is for some National Clubs to combine their show with another National Club. If any club is struggling please contact Glenn Lycan or Guy Fisher in Club Development. Any club who is looking for a venue, and I am sure there are many, can contact Event Plans and they can give you a direct link to venues in your area that clubs have used or that are available for dogshows.

There was also some discussion by the Bulldog Club of American regarding exotic breeders as the US is the largest country to deal with this. Most of the concern is on the colored dogs that are not AKC or Breed Standard recognized. The Board of Directors is discussing this issue now and will work with Parent Clubs to dictate what colors to recognize. Mari-Beth will also update the colors with the Parent Club.

**The Breed Sustainability Committee headed by Alan Kalter** discussed over breeding of the breeds, vibrant gene pools and the judges education and health increase education. This can be done by social media. We only produce 20% of the puppies for the general public. This will be discussed at the September meeting. Discussion on the AKC Museum and Breed items that do not go to NYC was next. This was presented by Alan Fausal who is Director AKC Cultural Resources, and was on the interest in the auction off of the items the Museum in St. Louis has that will not be going to the location being opened in New York.

For instance, the Great Pyrenees Club wants a chance to get the artifacts on their breed. Alan Fausal said that the money collected will go for preservation of the artwork being shown at the New York Museum. There are plans to have an exclusive auction for the Parent Clubs for buyout of those they want. The collection is heavy in ceramics. They will not auction any artifacts that were sent to the Museum by the Parent Clubs in the past.

**Canine Health Committee** the following was discussed: (information provided by my dear friend, Steven Hamblin, who attended the meeting)

As a matter of business, Dr. Charles Garvin was nominated and elected to fill a vacant seat on the committee. Then the agenda kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Diane Brown from AKC CHF. Dr. Brown reported that the Annual Report is out, and that, again, AKC CHF has received a Platinum Rating from Guidestar (an information service specializing in reporting on US nonprofit companies). That annual report is available at [www.akcCHF.org](http://www.akcCHF.org). In addition to the annual report, a revised and updated version of the 2018 Research Grants Portfolio is available. Since CHF now funds grants year-round (rather than once a year), the portfolio is updated quarterly. This portfolio is also available on the website, and contains a complete list of grants, denoting which ones are “new” since the last publication. Additionally, this portfolio lists the “Impact of Funding: Select Scientific Publications Outcomes of Research” so the scope of impact of these research grants can be fully understood. Great work AKC CHF! Ongoing, CHF posts one-sheets on their website highlighting infectious disease (which is on the uptick). These one-sheets can be easily printed and shared with club members at a meeting, or CHF will tailor a one-sheet to your specific breed to share with your Parent Club or Specialty Club – reach out to them in advance for support.

In other news, the Purina Weight Circles program is changing: beginning in July (date TBD), the weight circles will no longer be cut out and sent in – it will become a scan of the bar code from the bag. If anyone is sitting on weight circles to send, then SEND THEM NOW to have them counted before the program changes!

**On the topic of DNA banking and OFA/CHIC: Eddie Dziuk spoke about preferred method for receiving and banking DNA samples. Researchers are increasingly looking for blood samples rather than swabs.** Blood samples can yield decades of research material, whereas swabs lack purity and concentration of DNA. If the option is to gather DNA material via swab in lieu of not collecting at all, then swab and send it in! But if blood draws can be collected in lieu of swabs, then it’s the preferred method, and labs are increasingly asking for blood samples and overlooking swabs. The rule of thumb is that blood is “limitless” and swabs are “finite”. To facilitate blood collection, AKC will check with VetNet to see if a blood draw can be collected as part of the VetNet program (which many breeders use and offer to their puppy buyers for initial wellness checks). This could have great implications for advancing blood/DNA collection moving forward.

**Lastly, the “Harmonization” project finally has a first draft**, and it is posted online at [www.dogwellnet.com](http://www.dogwellnet.com). A couple of things for Clubs to be aware of: there has been a growing trend of research facilities to recruit dogs into research programs (i.e. cancer research where the dog is so sick and the family so stricken that they’re willing to try anything). The challenge with these programs is that they don’t necessarily benefit the dog – they benefit the research facility. Moreover, the owner is committing to costs upwards of \$8,000 with no expectation that the dog will receive any relief or reprieve, and unlike laboratory animals that are regulated, these dogs are NOT protected by the law. Be aware of what you allow your dogs to take part in. And the other concern for Clubs is that organizations (like Embarkvet.com) have been contacting Parent Clubs to collect DNA samples from members – for a FEE; and those samples are benefiting Embark – not the Club, not OFA/CHIC, and not the breed. People are basically selling their dog’s DNA to a company with no protection for

where it goes or how it's used. In some instances, the lab has misled people into believing that their work is endorsed by leading Universities or OFA – which is not the case. Be aware and educate yourselves about the programs that you choose to involve your dogs in!

**Dog Show Rules Committee**, we celebrated the marriage of our own Gina DiNardo to Peter Gwynne on the Memorial Day weekend. I saw the pictures and they were lovely and happiness was everywhere. Our committee wanted to give Gina a gift for her and Peter. With the help of committee members, Sue Goldberg and Barbara Schwarz, we gave Gina a rosette encased in a glass frame. The Rosette was of the color of Gina's wedding gown and said on it "Congratulations On Your New Title". We are so happy for Gina and Peter!!!! After that fun time we got to the business at hand. One of those was the items sent to Gina.

We like, and have received from Gina, the process of what is happening with our proposals that are sent to the Board. There will be a vote in September on Chapter 1, Section 4, Chapter 3, Section 16, Chapter 5, Section 9, and Chapter 11, Section 16. Our Committee wishes the Delegate would read these and submit a Yes vote on all. Items sent to the Board and will be discussed at the July Board meeting will be Chapter 3, Section 13, Chapter 11, Section 1 and Chapter 14, Section 5.

Barbara Schwarz, head of the italics sub-committee gave her report. The first item was on Chapter 9, Section 12 which would have the italics removed for the last 4 paragraphs and paragraph 3 and 4 reversed and converted to a rule. It was voted to send to Board. Next was Chapter 10 and to indicate in the new Section 8- Repeated in Chapter 11, Sec 12 which states that, "the official veterinarian shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show, and the dogs owned wholly or in part by him or her shall not be eligible to be entered at that show" That was also passed by the committee to be sent to the Board. The next item was Chapter 9, Section 2 which was to reword, remove italics and make a rule. Reword was to clarify and add Group Clubs to the Restriction. That was passed by the committee and is being sent to the Board.

**Duane Butherus gave a report on Event Committees and how to handle un-entered dogs or bite or attack and the spectators at the show who misbehave.** The proposal was to add into the Dealing With Misconduct at American Kennel Club Event Guide for Event Committees the following should be added "This responsibility extends to misconduct of both un-entered dogs as well as spectators at this event. If the assistance of civil authorities is required, the events committee has the authority to request such assistance in the name of the club". After lots of discussion, mostly on the idea of calling 911 or the police, it was decided by to committee not to change the current Dealing With Misconduct booklet.

**Cindy Stansell discussed her Ribbon Committee proposal on the removal of date and location on ribbons awarded at dog shows.** The proposed change to Chapter 5, Section 2 was "Ribbons or rosettes used for regular and non-regular 1-4 placements must meet the requirement, except the date of the show and location of the show need not be included." This proposal rule change is also being discussed by the All-Breed Committee who wishes to expand on the no requirement for date and location to all ribbons awarded at a dog show as they feel it could be a great cost reduction for small all-breed clubs and specialties. From what I hear they will be discussing this with AKC staff as they feel our proposal is not sufficient. Our committee voted to send to Board for discussion.

There was also **discussion on a dog being able to earn one point for Best of Winners with competition.** The change would allow an exhibit awarded BOW the opportunity to earn a maximum of one championship point if the combined number of regular class dogs for both sexes is the minimum required for one point. The goal

of this change is to provide exhibitors an incentive to continue to participate in the sport and attend shows. The opportunity for BOW to earn the point is by definition an indication that, in the judge's opinion, the dog awarded is worthy of championship points. While this idea would apply to all breeds, it would be particularly encouraging for low entry breeds as there would be a chance to earn a championship point even if one of each sex is entered.

Another discussion was on Chapter 4, Sec 1, Chapter 6, Sec 2 & Chapter 12, Section 1. This would **eliminate the judges' street addresses from premium list and catalog**. This is a request from judges who worry that people will have their address and know when they will not be at home. This is an opt in and opt out from what I understand. The Committee voted their support.

There was also a vote to send to the Delegate Body a vote on Chapter 11, Sec 8-A that deals with the **reinstatement process for dogs DQ'd for biting or viciousness**. This deals with the location of the reinstatement and the identification of the dog being presented for reinstatement. The AKC is currently not following their own rule on this as far as where a reinstatement can be done. It was voted to send to Delegate Body with a read in September and a vote at the December Delegate Meeting. The Committee wishes that the Delegate vote YES on this proposal.

At the Forum on Tuesday of the Delegate meeting, there was a presentation by Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mark Dunn, Penny Leigh and Scott Thomas on **"Domestic Supply of Explosives Detection Dogs"**. This was very interesting. Following the events of 9-11, the demand for scent detection dogs for use in search and rescue, as well as explosives detection, began to grow. The AKC Board formed a task force to study this issue. Most of the supply for detection dogs is coming from Eastern Europe with 80%. Only 10% come from the USA. Most are dual purpose dogs that patrol and do nose work. Most demand now is for Sporting Breeds such as Labs, GSP, WHP and Vizsla. Sporting dogs are preferred as they are less intimidating to the public and less reactive in close quarters for personal searches. As the Sporting breeds are bred to hunt birds all day they can hunt all day for detection. Some shelter dogs can fill the void. Agility dogs can also be used as for sewage detection for explosives. Some of the barriers are the bias for European dogs, cost, and lack of breeders that only raise puppies for themselves. Most breeders keep the puppies for 8 weeks and can sell them for up to \$1500 each but do not want to take a chance on keeping a year old dog that may or may not be good for detection dogs and get only \$8000.00. There will be a meeting on Detection Dogs on August 28-30, 2018 in Durham, NC. For more information please search, under Detection Dogs on the AKC website, as there is lots of information out there.

**Doug Ljungren, VP of the AKC Sports and Events Department spoke on the State of the Sport- 2018 Initiatives.** Sports and Events manage 25 different sports with 20,000 participants.

In 2004 dogshows began to lose entries up to 120,000 entries lost in 2008 recession. In 2017 the canine flu cost lots of entries with 24,000 lost. In 2018 we are down less than 1%. Since 2017 obedience began going down due to changes in group exercises but **now in 2018 obedience is up 14%**. CGC certs/titles were at 70,082 and the field trials and hunters were down 6%. Some more of the AKC 2018 Initiatives are to: Remove administrative burden and bureaucracy and make it easier. Have an All Breed events analysis with the purpose to balance the number of shows with the needs of the participants and the clubs. Explore opportunities for Specialty Clubs to grow entries in All Breed shows. Promote multi-sport events. Too many dog shows is being discussed at the July Board meeting.

**Joseph Baffulo, AKC CFO gave his report.** That report is as follows:

<b>REVENUE &amp; EXPENSE SUMMARY AS OF MAY 31 (IN THOUSANDS)</b>	
Revenues 2018-\$31,177 with 2017 \$29,156 Expenses 2018- \$29,543 with 2017 \$25,745 Operating Income 2018- \$1,634 with 2017 \$3,411	TOTAL EXPENSES YTD AS OF MAY 31  Up \$3.8 million
CORE REGISTRATION VOLUMES AS OF MAY 31,  2018: Litters 104,083 +6% Dogs 255,886 +5% 2017: Litters 98,206 Dogs 243,372	YTD EXPENSE INCREASES  Payroll and benefits \$1.5 million Consulting \$696,000 Marketing \$623,000 CHF Contributions \$348,000
TOTAL REVENUES YTD AS OF MAY 31,  Up \$2.0 million or 7%	INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE AS OF MAY 31  Investment gains \$88,000 Investment return 0.21% Benchmark for AKC; s combined portfolio 0.98%
YTD REVENUE INCREASES  Registrations /Dogs \$896,000 Royalties/Sponsors \$720,000 Canine Good Citizen \$497,000 Registrations/Litters \$191,000	AKC BALANCE SHEET YTD 2018 VS 2017 (IN MILLIONS)  Total assets 2018 \$171.7- 2017-\$151.8 Total Liabilities 2018 \$77.3- 2017 \$68.5
There was an unrestricted net assets in 2018 of \$94.4 million vs. \$83.2 million for 2017.	

There was a vote to approve the following proposals which was APPROVED by the vote of the Delegate Body at the meeting:

*Chapter 6, Section 2 and Chapter 16, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows which would change the capitalization of "benched" and "unbenched" and would move an italicized sentence in Chapter 16, Sec 1 to a non-italicized sentence as part of the rule, in Chapter 6, Sec 2 which addresses premium list requirement*

*Chapter 7, Section 2 of the Rules Applying to Dog Show-Judges, which would change "license" to "approval".*

*Chapter 7, Section 12, of the rules Applying to Dog Shows-Judges, which would make the italicized sentence part of the rule and removes the recommendation that the Best In Show judge be someone that has not already judged that day. Currently the only hardship cases that are approved are day of event cancellations.*