



# AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

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## April 2021 Executive Secretary's Report

This report details the day-to-day activities of the ASCA Board of Directors (the Board). It includes results of motions voted on via email, meeting minutes, and any other non-confidential issues brought before the Board.

### Announcements

Congratulations to **Maarten Walter** - the 2021 recipient of ASCA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

#### Welcome to new ASCA Committee Members:

Agility - Sandra Katzen, Diana Curl, Nicole Watts, Claudia Yearsley, Heather Tyler, and Donalee McElrath.

Conformation - David Clayton.

Hall of Fame - Rachel Vest and Lori Fausett.

History - Cindy King.

Rally - Diana Curl and Cynthia Hokes.

Scent Search - Noel Ritter, Becky Barnes, and Pam Miller.

#### 2022 Nationals Announcement:

Nationals Obedience Judges: Robert Apap and Sandra Walker.

Nationals Rally Judges: Rachel Brostrom, Gudrun Dytrych.

**Notice to Affiliates:** Beginning June 1 until November 1 the sanctioning timeframe will be set at 45-days. As of November 1, the timeframe will increase to 60-days. The Board will review this action during their 2021 Nationals Meeting.

**Notice to Affiliates:** In areas where some of the restrictions are being lifted or eased, Affiliates can decide to still require the use of masks and social distancing, etc. at their events. However, those requirements must be listed in the premium, so competitors understand the expectations in advance.

**ASCA Ballots go out to members this month!** You can vote online or by mail. In addition to the Board of Directors election there is also a proposed bylaw change.

## Motions Considered via Email

### Director Recommendations

#### BD.21.44 Pedigree Research Request

Motion is **adopted** (8-0-1) - Approve: Busquets, Creelman, Evans, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: Boone. Non-Voting: None.

Motion by Roberts to insert a new subsection G under Chapter 1 section 6 of the ASCA Registry rules, immediately following subsection F, and reorganize the following subsections. Second by Larson.

*G. A person may request that the ASCA Office research the applicant dog's pedigree, prior to application for registration, by submitting the Pedigree Research request and paying the appropriate fee. The fee for pedigree research is separate from the registration fee and is non-refundable.*

The attached pedigree research request form will be posted on the ASCA website under registry forms and added to the registry rule book.

#### Current Wording: Registry Rules

#### Section 1.6 Registration for Other Registries (Foreign Registries)

The term "foreign registry" means a registry other than ASCA. Purebred Australian Shepherds registered with other registries may be eligible for ASCA registration provided they meet all the following requirements:

- A. The dog was registered as an Australian Shepherd in the country of birth with a foreign registry recognized by ASCA as follows:

1. Any registry with which ASCA has a reciprocal agreement (i.e., The Canadian Kennel Club)
  2. Any Foreign club registry approved by the Board of Directors after review of that registry's registration process (currently the American Kennel Club, The Kennel Club)
- B. Owners of applicant dogs registered with non-ASCA approved registries must seek approval for that registry by providing the Board of Directors with clear evidence of the foreign registry's ability to accurately verify purebred Australian Shepherd lineage.
  - C. If both parents of an applicant dog are ASCA registered, the dog must be registered through an ASCA Litter registration application. This dog is NOT eligible for Foreign Registration.
  - D. Litters born prior to the Foreign registration of a sire/dam will be eligible for litter registration (after registration of said parent) provided both parents are ASCA registered and the litter meets all other requirements in the ASCA registry rules for litter registration (DNA, Fees, etc.). Fees for registration of the litter and the individual puppies are those listed on the ASCA litter registration and individual application form. The fees are based upon the age of the litter and puppy at the time of application.
  - E. The application must include a pedigree certified by the foreign registry. This pedigree must be a minimum of three generations and must include all registration numbers from that registry. Pedigrees containing more than three generations are acceptable. However, these pedigrees must include all registration numbers from that registry.
  - F. The applicant must provide evidence that the applicant dog's lineage is based 100% on ASCA registered dogs, none of whose registrations have been revoked by ASCA prior to the applicant's purchase of the dog or who was ASCA registered "Not for Breeding". Registration of any applicant dog or any dog in the submitted pedigree as a breed other than Australian Shepherd will result in the applicant dog being ineligible for ASCA registration. Applicants must supply ASCA descendant registration numbers at the time of application.
  - G. A photocopy of the registration papers certified by the foreign registry must accompany the application. The dog must have an unrestricted (for breeding) registration with that registry if applying for registration as "for breeding" in the ASCA Registry.
  - H. The application form and the foreign registration must show identical ownership.
  - I. The dog must have a permanent, readable microchip or tattoo identification.
  - J. The dog must be DNA profiled by an ASCA approved DNA laboratory.
  - K. The owner must certify that the applicant dog does not have any disqualifying faults as described in the ASCA breed standard.
  - L. The signature of all owners must appear on the application.
  - M. The breeder's signature must appear on the application.
  - N. Three photos of the individual dog must accompany the application form. Photos must be clear, in color and show the dog's front, and left and right side full body views.
  - O. If any part of the application has been falsified or found to be untrue, registration will be revoked for this dog and any progeny. The Board of Directors may take disciplinary action against the owner.
  - P. If you are interested in participating with your purebred Australian Shepherd in ASCA's many performance programs including Agility, Obedience, Rally, Stockdog, and Tracking, you may want to consider enrolling your dog in ASCA's Limited Exhibition Privilege (LEP) program. For further information please visit [www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org) or contact the Business Office.

**Proposed Wording:** Registry Rules

**Section 1.6 Registration for Other Registries (Foreign Registries)**

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- B. Owners of applicant dogs registered with non-ASCA approved registries must seek approval for that registry by providing the Board of Directors with clear evidence of the foreign registry's ability to accurately verify purebred Australian Shepherd lineage.
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- G. A person may request that the ASCA Office research the applicant dog's pedigree, prior to application for registration, by submitting the Pedigree Research request and paying the appropriate fee. The fee for pedigree research is separate from the registration fee and is non-refundable.
- H. A photocopy of the registration papers certified by the foreign registry must accompany the application. The dog must have an unrestricted (for breeding) registration with that registry if applying for registration as "for breeding" in the ASCA Registry.
- I. The application form and the foreign registration must show identical ownership.
- J. The dog must have a permanent, readable microchip or tattoo identification.
- K. The dog must be DNA profiled by an ASCA approved DNA laboratory.
- L. The owner must certify that the applicant dog does not have any disqualifying faults as described in the ASCA breed standard.
- M. The signature of all owners must appear on the application.
- N. The breeder's signature must appear on the application.
- O. Three photos of the individual dog must accompany the application form. Photos must be clear, in color and show the dog's front, and left and right side full body views.
- P. If any part of the application has been falsified or found to be untrue, registration will be revoked for this dog and any progeny. The Board of Directors may take disciplinary action against the owner.
- Q. If you are interested in participating with your purebred Australian Shepherd in ASCA's many performance programs including Agility, Obedience, Rally, Stockdog, and Tracking, you may want to consider enrolling your dog in ASCA's Limited Exhibition Privilege (LEP) program. For further information please visit [www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org) or contact the Business Office.

**Comments/Rationale:** The process and fee were developed in partnership with the ASCA Office Manager after discussions about the foreign registration application process. Although people are supposed to provide proof that the applicant dog's pedigree traces back to ASCA registration prior to making an application, the fact is that people rely on the office for the research. With this process the person making the request will be paying for staff's time.

**Affected:** Business office and prospective applicants.

**Effective Date:** Immediately upon Board approval.

**Attachment:** Pedigree Research Request Form 4-2021.pdf (Link to form on ASCA Website: <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Pedigree-Research-Request-Form-4-2021.pdf> )

## Minutes of the Board's Spring Meeting

April 15-17, 2021, in Bryan, Texas.

### Thursday, April 15, 2021

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 9:15 am CDT and it was suspended at 4:45 pm CDT. The Board took a lunch break from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm.

**In attendance were:** President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Treasurer Warren Evans (by phone), Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (by phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Also present were:** Office Manager Ray Fryar (1:00 pm - 4:30 pm). Inventive representatives - Andrew Siemer, Laura Ruffino, and James Chambers (by phone) (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm). Webmaster Heidi Mobley (by phone) (2:30 pm - 3:00 pm).

### Last Month's Email Business

Due to the requirements of Washington State Law, all legal business of ASCA must be conducted via face-to-face meetings or telephone conference call meetings. To meet this requirement and continue to conduct business via email, each face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via email since the last face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

#### BD.21.45 March 2021 Email Business

Motion by Gann to ratify last month's email business. Second by Larson. Motion is **adopted** (9-0).

### Revisit Norms

A "norm" is a principle of right action binding upon the members of a group and serving to guide, control, or regulate proper and acceptable behavior. At each face-to-face meeting, the Board reviews their agreed upon norms, revises them, if necessary, and renews commitment to upholding them.

### ASCA DNA Decision Tree

Director Larson has been working with Paw Print Genetics to create a decision tree for members to follow when DNA profiling an individual dog.

- If the sire/dam of a litter have already been profiled by Therion, the litter is eligible to be registered with ASCA - the sire/dam does not need to also be profiled by Paw Print Genetics. Individually registered dogs from this litter that are DNA profiled with PPG will receive a DNA-CP.
- If the sire/dam of a litter have been profiled by Paw Print Genetics, the litter is eligible to be registered with ASCA. Individually registered dogs from this litter that are DNA profiled with PPG will receive a DNA-VP.
- In each case above, the sire/dam retains whatever DNA designation they have already received (CP or VP).
- If the sire/dam of a litter have not been profiled by either Therion or Paw Print Genetics, they must be profiled by Paw Print Genetics to register the litter with ASCA. Individually registered dogs from this litter that are DNA profiled with PPG will receive a DNA-VP.

Paw Print Genetics can answer your questions about the ordering process or current profiles with them. However, questions about eligibility to register dogs with ASCA should be directed to ASCA's Business Office.

Remember, the authorization form found on ASCA's website\* must be submitted with all parentage and/or profile orders. \*<https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/pawprintsautform.pdf>

## **Trademark License Application**

The Board reviewed an application to use ASCA's trademarks from Kathi Schwengel - DBA Journey Expressions. The fee is typically 5% of revenues from goods or services using the marks.

### **BD.21.46 Use of ASCA Trademark - DBA Journey Expressions**

Motion by Larson to approve the use of ASCA's trademark by Kathi Schwengel - DBA Journey Expressions. Second by Creelman. Motion is **adopted** (9-0).

## **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Each year the Board discusses and votes on the History Committee's nomination for the ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, they nominated Maarten Walter and the Board was honored to accept.

Here is the nomination from ASCA Member Linda Gray - "I recommend Maarten Walter for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Why, because:

- 1) He spent several years as an ASCA Director.
- 2) He is a Stockdog Judge.
- 3) He is an Obedience Judge.
- 4) He is a Conformation Judge.
- 5) He was instrumental in putting together a website (along with Patrick MacRoberts (who was honored in 2006)) for ASCA. He gave up his time to come to a spring meeting and explain the www and what email was all about to Directors before we had email or computers for that matter.
- 6) He was instrumental (along with Phil Wildhagen (who was honored at a West Coast National)) in language programming at the office.
- 7) He was instrumental in recommending the computer system (hardware and software) used at the office.
- 8) He was instrumental in developing the ASCNE Stockdog program which was non-existent before Maarten.
- 9) He was instrumental in forming the European Working Club Western Europe Working ASC, the first working stockdog club in Europe.
- 10) He is active traveling all over the US and Europe putting on stockdog clinics helping people to trial their dogs.

I'm sure there are other things Maarten has done for ASCA that I don't know about. He's been a member for at least 40+ years.

My two cents: Serving on the ASCA board should be considered the first criteria for this award as it is the ultimate sacrifice any member can make.

Linda"

## **Committee Member Renewals and Appointments**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. Each year the Board votes on renewing terms of members currently serving on committees and considers new appointments to committees.

### **Agility Committee**

**Renewals:** Chet Katwyk to region 1 and Sherry Butler to region 2.

**Appointments:** Sandra Katzen to region 1, Diana Curl to region 2, Nicole Watts to region 2, Claudia Yearsley to region 3, Heather Tyler to region 6, and Donalee McElrath to region 6.

Thank you to outgoing members Mauricio Britva (region 5) and Wendy Richmond (region 6).

### **Conformation Committee**

**Renewals:** Mary Hellmeister to region 2, Joyce Charron to region 4, Betty Jaco to region 5, Gail Karamalegos to region 5, and Myrjam Langen to region 7.

**Appointment:** David Clayton to region 5.

Thank you to outgoing member Kathy Peycke (region 1).

### ***Dock Jumping Committee***

**Renewals:** Alexi Staples to region 2, Jen Bunker to region 4, Heidi Mobley to region 5, Pam Smith to region 5, and Jennifer Bertrand to region 5.

### ***Hall of Fame Committee***

**Renewals:** Melissa Borde to region 4, Ann DeChant to region 4, and Laura Gibson to region 5.

**Appointments:** Rachel Vest to region 5 and Lori Fausett to region 5.

Thank you to outgoing member Cheryl Padgett (region 5).

### ***History Committee***

**Renewal:** Robbi Norman to region 4.

**Appointment:** Cindy King to region 6.

### ***Junior Committee***

**Renewals:** Bryn Elliott to region 1, Shelby Shank to region 2, Bayley Williams to region 5, Deb St. Jacques to region 6, and Svenja Hagedorn to region 7.

### ***Legislative Committee***

**Renewals:** Darcy Gardiner to region 3, Jay Kiper to region 5, and Susan Beals to region 6.

Thank you to outgoing member Mimi Nila (region 2).

### ***Most Versatile Aussie Committee***

**Renewals:** Sandra Hawkins to region 4 and Renee Watson to region 5.

### ***Obedience Committee***

**Renewals:** Hilary Hines to region 1, Laurie Rubin to region 2, and Ann McCabe to region 2.

### ***Rally Committee***

**Renewals:** Sue Graham to region 1, Ann McCabe to region 2, Etta Wertz to region 3, Corinne Shanks to region 5, Leah Swatko to region 6, Kathryn Meyer to region 6, and Gunter Geisel to region 7.

**Appointments:** Diana Curl to region 2 and Cynthia Hokes to region 4.

Thank you to outgoing members Mike Hopper (region 4) and Cheryl Padgett (region 5).

### ***Scent Search Committee***

**Renewal:** Sunday Miles to region 4.

**Appointments:** Noel Ritter to region 1, Becky Barnes to region 5, and Pam Miller to region 5.

### ***Stockdog Committee***

**At-Large Judge Renewals:** Deb Conroy, James Bergert, Andrea Hoffmann, and Jamie Burns.

### ***Tracking Committee***

**Renewals:** Lisa Klein to region 1, Maia Halvorsen to region 1, Laurie Shuren to region 6, and Marja Teegelbeckers to region 7.

Thank you to outgoing member Sandra Hawkins (region 4).

## Meeting with Inventive

The Board was joined by representatives from Inventive - CEO Andrew Siemer, Director of Sales Laura Ruffino, and Principal Architect James Chambers (via phone) to discuss plans for ASCA's database migration and system upgrade.

Inventive has already been working with ASCA for over a year to maintain the current system. Their proposal is to build a new system tailored to ASCA's needs, following industry coding standards and best practices. Everyone's priority is to migrate ASCA's physical database to the cloud, and that involves some system building at the start that allows the staff to work with the data in the database.

The entire project will not be rolled out at once, so the ASCA staff and members will see results as the project progresses. Functions and features of the system will be released as they are developed, tested, and approved. This will allow us to address issues at the time with many built-in checks and balances. This also means the project could pivot at some point based on our needs; everyone involved must be sure to communicate clearly.

The Board is understandably concerned about committing this amount of ASCA's money to such a large project, but our Business Office has reached a breaking point with the current system. Director Gann brought up the idea of some relief for ASCA should the project not turn out as we anticipated.

If ASCA agrees to go forward with the project, Inventive can immediately begin putting a team together to get started. The Office Manager will be the point of contact for the Business Office, and we also have a fantastic team of volunteers working on ASCA's behalf, led by our System Liaison, Director Evans.

## ASCA Event Calendar

The Board and Office Manager were joined by Webmaster Heidi Mobley (by phone) to discuss member feedback and suggestions regarding ASCA's event calendars and grandfathered dates.

ASCA's Official Event Calendar only displays sanctioned events. It is maintained by our ASCA staff. ASCA's Unofficial Event Calendar displays any sanctioned or unsanctioned event of interest to ASCA members and can be updated by any person or Affiliate Club. It is maintained by long-time ASCA volunteer Frank Butera for everyone's use.

The rules for first right to dates, or "grandfathered dates", can be found in each of ASCA's program rules. Each Host Club, which holds a sanctioned event at least once in every 2 consecutive years, has first right to claim the corresponding dates or holiday weekend for its event to be held in the next succeeding two years. If the Club having first right to the date(s) does not host a sanctioned event on that date in the following year, another Club may use the preexisting date for an event. The original Club still has first right to the date(s) on the second year following their original event. If they do not host a sanctioned event on that date in the second year, they lose the first right to the date.

When a sanction request is received by the Business Office, our staff manually checks those dates for the past three years to check for a Club's first right to the dates. There is not a calendar with these dates already set out.

After much consideration, the Board determined to make no changes to ASCA's event calendars at this time.

## Sanctioning Deadline

The Board spoke with the Office Manager about the current 30-day sanctioning deadline and how it has been working for the Business Office staff. Unfortunately, it may make things easier for the Affiliate Clubs, but it is a hardship on the staff. Prioritizing sanctioning has caused delays in dealing with other issues, as well.

### BD.21.47 Sanctioning Timeframe

Motion by Creelman that beginning June 1 until November 1 the sanctioning timeframe be set at 45-days. As of November 1, the timeframe will increase to 60-days. The Board will review this action during their 2021 Nationals Meeting. Second by Larson. Motion is **adopted** (9-0).

## Meeting with Office Manager

Each year the Board meets with the Office Manager, Ray Fryar, to hear an update on the state of the Office and discuss employee reviews. Mr. Fryar reported on an interesting year for the Business Office. Despite local shutdowns and shelter-in-place orders, our staff was mostly able to continue working from home when needed and to safely come into the office as restrictions lifted.

ASCA's membership is at the highest it has been in about ten years, up to just over 10,500 members (including service). This past year has brought in many new people excited about participating in ASCA events with their dogs.

Events are being sanctioned and put on the event calendar as quickly as possible. The staff are still dealing with computer system slowdowns and setbacks - they are looking forward to a new system to get the office functioning more efficiently.

## 2021 Ballot

Each year the Office Manager presents a copy of the ballot for Board approval. Ballots are mailed to members in May.

### BD.21.48 2021 Ballot

Motion by Larson to approve the official ballot for the 2021 Board of Directors election and proposed ASCA Bylaw changes. Second by Wesen. Motion is **adopted** (9-0).

## Suspend Conformation Point Schedule

The Board considered a recommendation from the Conformation Committee to suspend the conformation point schedule until February 28, 2022. The recommendation places all Affiliate Clubs on schedule 1 for the show year starting 6/1/2021 through 5/31/2022.

The Board determined to leave the conformation point schedule as is, to be adjusted naturally as Affiliate Clubs become able to host shows again.

### CO.21.02 Suspend Conformation Point Schedule

Motion by Boone to approve the following recommendation from the Conformation Committee. Motion **fails** (0-9).

**Committee Recommendation:** Motion by Joyce Charron that Section 12.5 and 12.6 of the ASCA Conformation Rules & Regulations be suspended immediately until February 28th, 2022. During the month of February 2022, the committee will evaluate based on current numbers at the time whether the suspension should be extended or whether a lifting is warranted thus putting 12.5. and 12.6 back in place and calculating a new point schedule for the show year 6/1/2022 to 5/31/2023 and make a recommendation to the BOD. For the show year starting 6/1/2021 through 5/31/2022 all affiliate clubs will be placed on schedule 1. Second by Mary Hellmeister.

**Results of Committee Vote:** Approve: 10. Disapprove: 1. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

- a) Dissent from Committee Member Betty Jaco: How is having every affiliate on schedule one going to be helpful? Maybe for this most recent show period... but then next year? And the year after? Numbers are certainly going to be affected for a number of years, not just one year. We should just leave the point schedule alone and let the numbers fall where they will. It just seems like we are trying to manage something that we have no control over. (Butterfly effect.)
- b) Comment from Committee Member Kathy Peycke: I would like to comment that the reason I am voting this way is because I truly believe that something needs to be done to help out the affiliate clubs. That being said, I am not sure that this is the best way to help. I think that the suggestion to "Pause" the point schedule as it is was a better solution but this is what the majority of the committee was willing to agree upon. this being the only option, I choose to help out the clubs.

**Comments/Rationale:** Point schedules are calculated from February 1, through January 31. The point schedule slated to go into effect June 1, 2021 would be based on shows held from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. The point schedule currently in effect (now through May 31, 2021) is based on dogs shows from February 1, 2019 through January

31, 2020. A total of 5,533 class dogs and 7,505 class bitches were shown to create the current point schedule. Based upon data we received from the Business Office, 4,244 class dogs and 5,235 class bitches were shown from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. Comparing these numbers, we see that during a mostly pandemic year, class dog entries were down to 76% and class bitches are 69% compared to a non-pandemic show year. The lack of conformity in pandemic policies across the US, Canada and Europe have enabled some areas to host shows, while preventing others from having any. This will create a greater than normal discrepancy among point schedules, and could result in point schedule chasing, potentially creating economic difficulties for some affiliates. By putting all clubs on Schedule 1, no clubs will have unfair disadvantage due to pandemic policies outside their control.

**Affected:** Business Office (Office Manager indicated approval to this possible change), Affiliate Clubs.

**Effective Date:** Immediately upon Board approval.

### **Finals Judges Deadlines**

The Board is in favor of making the deadlines for mailing, return, and choosing of Finals Judges uniform across programs to make things easier for the Business Office, the Board, and the Show Committee. Currently, the process for each program is different. The date of August 1 was suggested as a deadline for all letters to go out to qualified Finals Judges for all programs. Directors Roberts and Larson will work on this with the Office Manager and Executive Secretary.

### **Counsel Committee**

Each year, the Board approves two Directors and an alternate Director to serve on the ASCA Counsel Committee along with ASCA's President. Directors Boone, Larson, and Wesen volunteered to continue to serve.

The Board will reevaluate the necessity of the Counsel Committee in one year.

**\*The meeting was suspended at 4:45 pm until Friday, April 16 at 9:00 am.**

### **Friday, April 16, 2021**

1st Vice President Gann called the meeting to order at 9:15 am CDT and it was adjourned at 5:00 pm CDT. The Board took a lunch break from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

**In attendance were:** President Liz Busquets (joined at 10:30 am), 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Treasurer Warren Evans (by phone), Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (by phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Also present were:** Ingram & Wallis representative - Richard Webb (10:00 am - 10:15 am). Counsel David Schleicher (1:00 pm - 3:30 pm).

### **Financial Update**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. The financial reports for period ending March 31, 2021, were presented by Treasurer Evans. Mr. Evans updated the Board regarding ASCA's current fiscal condition and projections for the future. Members can find the Treasurer's report and analysis from Mr. Evans in the member's only section of ASCA's website.

### **BD.21.49 March 2021 Treasurer's Report**

Motion by Evans to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Wesen. Motion is **adopted** (8-0) - Approve: Boone, Creelman, Evans, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Busquets.

### **Meeting with Auditor**

Each year the Board meets with ASCA's Auditor, Ingram Wallis, and Co., to hear an update on ASCA's finances and status of the most recent audit. Mr. Richard Webb reported on the results of the audit through December 31, 2019, which was completed September 23, 2020. ASCA's finances were, overall, consistent from 2018 to 2019. Highlights:

- 1) No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2019. They noted no transactions entered into by the Club during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative

guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

- 2) They encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing the audit.
- 3) Any corrected and uncorrected misstatements had an immaterial effect to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- 4) There were no disagreements with management during the audit.

Mr. Webb noted that ASCA's cash balance is currently over FDIC limits and recommends we open another account to separate the funds. Treasurer Evans will consult with the Office Manager about this.

### **Dock Jumping**

ASCA's Dock Jumping program was approved by the Board during the 2017 Spring Meeting. Since then, there have been 98 Ultimate Air Dogs events and 4 ASCA events. There have been 217 dogs that competed, and 131 titles generated. The agreement between ASCA and Ultimate Air Dogs is from July 12, 2017, until July 12, 2022.

Some Directors are concerned the program is not making enough money to cover the long-term running costs. It is also not accessible to all our members, as the availability of pools largely depends on location.

ASCA could begin accepting certifications from other approved dock jumping/diving organizations, with ASCA charging a fee to have that title included in our system. Liaison Wesen will reach out to the Dock Jumping Committee for their ideas on outreach and options for sustaining the program. The Board will continue discussion during their May 13 meeting.

### **Stockdog Course Drawings**

Thanks to the hard work of Sue McNulty, ASCA has been able to provide high quality drawings of our Stockdog Courses, available in the Stockdog Program Rules. Counsel is currently working to have an agreement on file with Ms. McNulty for the use of her drawings.

### **Site for 2024 Nationals**

The site for the National Specialty must be announced at least three years before the event, which means the site for 2024 must be chosen soon.

Director Creelman has been in contact with Fonner Park in Grand Island, Nebraska, as a possible site. She visited the site in person and is confident the facility meets ASCA's requirements for hosting the Nationals. Rubber mats are included for all arenas, however, there are some questions about the type and quality used for agility.

The Board reviewed a comparison of the costs of Fonner Park with the Brazos Expo in Bryan, Texas. There is a significant grant from Grand Island, NE, that is available to us for 2024 if we hold the event there. Director Creelman will find out if the grant from Grand Island can also be promised for 2025, if ASCA were to hold the Nationals there two years in a row.

### **Conformation Committee Chair**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with Counsel present. The Board voted to remove Ms. Liz Gibson from the Conformation Committee and from her position as the Committee's Chair.

Thank you to Ms. Gibson for her years of service to ASCA's Conformation Program.

### **Agreement with Inventive**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with Counsel present. ASCA's Counsel will reach out to Inventive to speak with their legal team about relief options for ASCA in the contract for our database migration and system build.

### **Affiliates & COVID-19 Related Precautions**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with Counsel present. The Board continues to expect that all ASCA-sanctioned events comply with minimum health and safety requirements under national, state, and local laws.

In areas where some of the restrictions are being lifted or eased, Affiliates can decide to still require the use of masks and social distancing, etc. at their events. However, those requirements must be listed in the premium, so competitors understand the expectations in advance.

### **Continuing Registry Issue**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with Counsel present. Counsel updated the Board on a registry issue.

### **Draw for 2022 Pre/Post-Shows/Trials**

The Board conducted the pre/post-trial/show draw for the 2022 Nationals in accordance with Nationals Rules 1.1.4. This draw is to secure the order in which available pre/post-shows/trials are selected when the schedule is set.

#### **Conformation Draw 1 (not hosted in last 4 years)**

1. New York ASA
2. Lowlands ASC (Belgium)

#### **Conformation Draw 2 (have hosted in last 4 years)**

1. Heart of Texas ASC
2. Greater Atlanta ASC
3. Eastex ASC
4. Colorado ASA

#### **Agility**

1. Lowlands ASC (Belgium)

#### **Obedience/Rally**

1. Hill Country ASC

#### **Stockdog**

1. Central Texas Working ASC

### **2022 National Trial Judges**

The Board voted to approve the judges for the 2022 Nationals Obedience Trial and 2022 Nationals Rally Trial, in accordance with the Obedience and Rally Program Rules.

National Obedience Trial Judges: Robert Apap and Sandra Walker.

National Rally Trial Judges: Rachel Brostrom and Gudrun Dytrych.

### **Computer System/Technology Update**

System Liaison Evans' report was mostly given through the meeting so far in the form of discussions with Inventive and regarding the proposed database migration and system build.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Board discussed and adopted the new Strategic Plan, which incorporates feedback from the Board and committees, presented by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Here is a link to the updated document: <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/strategicplan.pdf>

#### **BD.21.53 2021 Strategic Plan**

Motion by Larson to approve the Strategic Plan with changes made during the Spring Meeting. Second by Creelman. Motion is **adopted** (9-0).

**\*The meeting was suspended at 5:00 pm until Saturday, April 17 at 9:00 am.**

### **Saturday, April 17, 2021**

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 9:05 am CDT and it was adjourned at 11:40 am CDT.

**In attendance were:** President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Treasurer Warren Evans (by phone), Secretary Jan Wesen, Director Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (by phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

### **Site for 2024 Nationals, continued**

The Board continued their discussion of the suitability of Fonner Park in Grand Island, Nebraska, to host the ASCA Nationals, possibly in 2024. Director Creelman has visited the site in person and will work with Director Larson to create a possible site plan. We also have some ASCA program experts who can visit the site.

The Board noted the importance of developing a relationship with the city we hold our Nationals in, which is hard to do when the event moves from place to place. Some Directors were cautious about putting our arrangement with Brazos Expo in Bryan, Texas, at risk.

Director Boone suggested changing the dates of Nationals to Wednesday to Wednesday (or another weekday) instead of Saturday to Saturday since we often hear it is difficult to find host sites that can schedule two weekends in a row. Pre-shows/trials could also be dropped to make the schedule lighter.

It was also suggested ASCA return to allowing Affiliates to host the event but renegotiate with them so that ASCA gets a percentage of the profit.

Director Evans reminded that we could compare cost of sites, but we cannot compare revenue yet. ASCA will have better data for decision making after the 2021 Nationals.

### **Employee Reviews**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. Each year the Board reviews ASCA's Employees and votes on any pay raises.

### **Conformation Evaluation Title**

Directors shared ideas about a possible title associated with a conformation evaluation score. This would give dogs the opportunity to be evaluated without participation in the Conformation Program. Liaison Boone will bring this topic to the Conformation Committee for their consideration.

**\*The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.**

### **Meeting of the ASCA Foundation**

Each year, the Board of the ASCA Foundation (same as the ASCA Board) meets to discuss Foundation business.

Director Roberts asked if the Board could take money from unrestricted funds and move it to a restricted account. The funds in the account for rescue grants to Aussie rescue organizations and for the Cee Hambo Scholarship are dwindling, but ASCA would like to continue to offer these awards. Director Evans explained that the Board can use unrestricted funds for a restricted purpose without needing to move any money.

**\*The Foundation meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.**

Respectfully submitted by

*Kalla E. Jaco*

Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.