

AKC DELEGATE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Having discussed with other delegates how they handle their Annual Reports, and finding that their clubs preferred to know just what their delegate did during the year, rather than a rehash of what appeared in their newsletter following each meeting. So, for a change, here is a new format for the Annual Report of the AKC Delegate:

The Delegate Body meets four times a year for two days, with the first day being dedicated to committee meetings such as Parent Clubs; By-Laws; Health; Companion Dogs; Delegate Advancement; All-Breeds and others. The committees deal with specific issues which affect the sport of dogs in the areas of competition, education, welfare, rules and regulations....in other words they handle the business of the delegate body and keep the members up to date on the latest information relating to each committee's function.

Committees in turn report to the delegate body and to the board through their minutes and through proposals sent to the Board for potential action. Members of committees are elected by the delegate body and serve 1, 2 or 3 full year terms. I was originally elected to fill a 1-year vacancy on the By-Laws Committee and then elected in 2016 for a full 3-year term. Our job is to determine if there is a need for revision of existing by-laws or the drafting of entirely new ones based on changes in the sport of purebred dogs, companion dogs events, and the general operation of the delegate body and its relationship with the Board of Directors, also elected by the delegate body.

Over the past year I have attended all 4 By-Laws Committee meetings as a member, as well as participated in online discussions with our Chair, Gretchen Bernardi, and other committee members and reviewed meeting minutes before publication. I have also attended Parent Club Committee meetings, and when I have a conflict in scheduling, I am fortunate in that two delegate friends, Karen Dorn and Linda Willson, graciously share their notes with me. Because the AKC does not require committee secretaries to have their minutes transcribed for 6 weeks following a meeting, we have to depend on notes from the meeting in order to meet publication deadlines. When my schedule permits I attend other committees such as Herding, Canine Health or Companion Events.

I have attended all 4 Delegate meetings, which are held on the second day of the meetings. In this meeting, reports from Chairman Ron Mennaker, President Dennis Sprung and the Financial Report from the AKC's accounting firm are given. In addition, there may be special reports from special activities or new developments within the AKC, such as the new Club Advancement Office or the new LINK AKC collar which allows owners to track their dogs both at home and away. If there are votes to be taken on proposed amendments, those are taken at that time. Prior to any voting, delegates are given the opportunity to go to the nearest microphone and speak for or against an amendment. Votes are then taken. I have voted on each amendment based on what the speakers expressed, and none of those votes affected our breed or our club.

Delegates attend the following additional meetings: Coordinating Committee meeting from 3:45-5:00 on Monday. Each committee chair provides a report on the highlights of that committee's work. Each committee presents a brief report.

The General Caucus meets from 3:45-5:00, is chaired by a member of the Delegate Body and provides an opportunity for those present to have open discussion about issues facing their club or breed which are of concern. Wider issues are also open for discussion as long as they pertain to AKC matters and the sport of dogs.

The first meeting on the day of the Delegate meeting is the Legislative Caucus, which is held from 7:30-9:00. In this meeting a variety of issues are discussed by staff from AKC, PAC or a special guest who is knowledgeable regarding legislative issues affecting our sport, both good and bad. Subjects other than legislation may also be presented.

Attending all the meetings makes for a two full days, but there is much to be learned, discussed and mulled over before the next meeting. Proposed Changes to Rules or By-Laws are always read in full by the Secretary at the meeting prior to the vote being taken.

That is my schedule for the two days I spend at Delegate meetings. I find the work very interesting and rewarding. The meetings are held in Newark, NJ at the Hilton Doubletree Airport Hotel in September, March and June. The December meeting is held in conjunction with the Royal Canin Show (formerly the Eukanuba) in December at the Rosen Centre Hotel. The September, 2017 meeting will be held at the Marriott Airport Hotel in Newark, as the Doubletree is undergoing renovation.

If you would like to see the latest financial and committee reports, as well as the Delegate Meeting report for June, you may find it and all quarterly reports in The Bagpipes.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Coxwell, Delegate