

2018 AKC DELEGATE'S ANNUAL REPORT

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 for 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 dog 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 four Bylaws 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 Wilson, 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 must depend on notes from the meeting to meet publication deadlines. When my schedule permits I attend other committees such as Herding, Canine Health or Companion Events.

Prior to the meeting, we receive a copy of the proposed votes which will be read at the next meeting, as well as a copy of the motions to be voted on at the next meeting. Most of these motions affect sporting dogs and their events, but there are motions which can affect the AKC. I am going to start printing out the PDF motions and scanning them, so I can provide the Board with the opportunity to review and make any comments.

About a week ago, I received a copy of the complete minutes for the Parent Club Committee for the June 2018 meeting. These were immediately sent to the Board for their review. They are indeed lengthy. This is the first time I have received a complete copy of the minutes, thought they are available on the Delegate Portal, but not until after my report has been filed. Since the BCCA prefers my report by the 30th of the month, the full minutes are not available until much later, so I try to report the most important highlights in my notes.

I have attended all four Delegate meetings, which are held on the second day of the meetings. In this meeting, reports from Chairman Ron Menaker, 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. Prior to any voting, delegates are given the opportunity to go to the nearest microphone and speak for or against an amendment.

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 if 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 full two days, but there is much to be learned, discussed and mulled over before the next meeting. Proposed Changes to Rules or Bylaws are always read in full by the Secretary at the meeting prior to the vote being taken.

That is my schedule for my two days spent 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 AKC National Championship in December at the Rosen Centre Hotel. The September 2018 meeting will be held later than usual, September 24-25, 2018.

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