



**The English Setter Association of America
Board of Directors Annual Meeting
September 23, 2024
Wilmington, OH**

In attendance: Kristen Apodaca, Colleen Bell, Julie Brimble, Lynda Chase, Leslie Crawford, Kathy Cunningham-Roy, John Fabelo, Rachel Fraser, Judi Hunter, Joanne Mistler, Anna Quigley, Julie Quirk, Coleen Raber, Cindy Rice, Roxanne Seale, BJ Parsons. Guest Susie Bush.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am EDT.

Officer's Reports

1. President's report

- ✧ Julie welcomed everyone to the Annual Board meeting.
- ✧ She mentioned that we have some vacancies of committee chairs, if regional vice presidents know of someone in their region who might be a good fit.

2. Secretary's report

- ✧ The following expenditures were made this year: AKC National Championship Parent Club Medallions: \$215
- ✧ In 2024 we sent out contracts for 2025 judges for Futurity/Maturity, Dogs/Bitches and JS/BOB for the National.
- ✧ We currently have no members who do not have at least one email address on file for communication.
- ✧ As of the end of September the Board voted on 15 electronic ballots and held 9 videoconference meetings.
- ✧ As of September 23, 2024, there were 46 mass mailings sent with an average opening rate over 60%, which is an increase from 2023.
- ✧ In 2024 boldfaced typing of each motion passed by the Board in the minutes was initiated for easier searching.
- ✧ Also, in 2024 a folder was created for all motions passed for both 2023 and 2024.
- ✧ **The secretary's report was approved on a Hunter/Mistler motion.**

3. Treasurer's report

- ✧ The Board review the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss so far in 2024.
- ✧ Roxanne is still in the process of becoming familiar with the historical background of ESAA's financial status.
- ✧ Linda Chase suggested we have the books reviewed annually. CPA Erin Dalton has reviewed the books with the last two changes in the treasurer's position.

- ✳ **A Quigley/Mistler motion was passed to have Erin Dalton on an annual retainer for an annual review of the ESAA financial books. A fee increase from the current contract amount can be revisited by the Board as needed.**
- ✳ **A Bell/Cunningham motion was passed to approve the treasurer's report.**

Completion of Committee Reports

4. AKC Delegate Report

- ✳ BJ Parsons submitted a comprehensive report on the September AKC Delegates' meeting.
 - The report included information from the Parent Club Committee
 - She also attended the Field Trial Committee meeting.
 - At the Delegates' Meeting it was noted that conformation, hunt, and field entries are down slightly. Performance events are up, including Fast CAT and Scent Work.
 - **An Apodaca/Bell motion was passed to approve the budget for the AKC Delegate.**
 - **A Chase/Apodaca motion was passed to accept the AKD Delegate's report.**

5. Futurity/Maturity – in mailed packet

- ✳ At the end of the 2023 report, Kaitlin Daughtery volunteered to research how other Parent Clubs run their Futurity and Maturity Stakes for ideas of what has been successful for them.
- ✳ Kaitlin shared her research with the Board.
- ✳ Kaitlin recommended the following:
 - Streamlining the nomination process to 2 Nomination Events - One Litter nomination and one Individual enrollment.
 - Making a late fee available for any member who misses the deadlines – Perhaps a \$50 late fee for the Litter nomination as long as it is within 3 months of the whelping date; perhaps \$25 for the Individual enrollment as long as the puppy is enrolled within 5 months of the whelping date.
 - In speaking to Breeders, Kaitlin felt Breeders would be willing to pay \$30 to enroll a litter, and owners \$30 to enroll each puppy.
- ✳ A concern was expressed about what would happen if an owner becomes ill and fails to renew their membership. It was suggested to ask Kaitlin to consider the feasibility of a grace period for lapsed memberships.
- ✳ **After discussion, the Board passed a Hunter/Gray motion to accept the suggestions of streamlining the Nomination process to 2 steps with a \$30 litter-registration fee and a \$30 individual puppy enrollment fee and accepting the recommended late timelines and fees of \$50 for a late litter nomination and \$25 for a late individual puppy nomination. This would begin in 2025.**

6. VES Recommendations – in mailed packet

- ✳ The Board had a chance to review 2023 report for background information prior to considering the 2024 recommendation. Chair Sue Johnson also summarized the VES program and its goals.
- ✳ The Board had previously required all owners to be members of ESAA when their dog(s) earned credentials in order to be eligible to apply for a VES certificate.
- ✳ The VES committee would like the Board to amend the requirement for owner(s) to be members of ESAA *at the time of their VES application* but allow titles earned *prior* to ESAA membership to be accepted *for their first VES title only*. Any subsequent titles would require owner(s) to have been ESAA members when those more advanced titles are earned.

- ✧ **Following discussion, a Raber/Crawford motion was passed to require owner(s) to be members of ESAA at the time of the VES application, while allowing titles earned prior to membership in ESAA to be included for the first VES title only, with ESAA membership required for all subsequent titles being earned for more advanced VES levels. The chair will be asked to consider if/what retroactive application might be reasonable.**

Old Business

7. 2023 National Reconciliation
 - ✧ Concern was expressed that it is unusual to lose money on an east coast National. . It was suggested that the superintendent cost of Pat Shaw v. Rau be looked at for the future since it may be better financially to “shop local”.
 - ✧ It was difficult for west coast members to get a direct flight to Ashville area.
 - ✧ Entries were lower than anticipated.
 - ✧ There was a huge loss on ribbons because the cost of ribbons has really increased since COVID.
8. 2025 National Update - given by Julie Brimble 2025 Show Chair
 - ✧ Conformation judges for the National and the weekend shows following are under contract.
 - ✧ Location is the Seattle Marriott.
 - ✧ An agility site has not yet been determined, and Fast CAT will not be possible.
 - ✧ Our traditional schedule may have to be tweaked. Puppy sweeps scheduling might need to be reconsidered, and ESAA may have to have overlapping events in order to do the traditional schedule.
 - ✧ Banquet alternative options are being explored.
9. Judges' Gifts
 - ✧ It was expressed that a gift is not a big expense and might encourage the judges to be more embracing of our breed.
 - ✧ It is a token of appreciation that is beyond the actual cost of the gift.
 - ✧ Any gift ideas should be included in the National budget.
 - ✧ **A Fabelo/Crawford motion was passed that gifts for ESAA event judges be budgeted at no more than \$25.**

New Business

10. Establish a Special Committee on publications and communications.
 - ✧ A similar task was done a number of years ago, but pre-electronic possibilities.
 - ✧ **A Brimble/Chase motion was passed to establish the committee and have Janet Gray chair this committee.**
11. Establish a Special Committee on website contract review.
 - ✧ We want to prepare in advance, so it is not a last-minute decision when our current contract with Dirigible ends in two years.
 - ✧ **A Brimble/Cunningham motion was passed to establish a website contract review committee.**
12. Establish a Special Committee to review commercially available livestock pedigree programs that can preserve our existing database and run desired reports.
 - ✧ Dick Fox originated and updated the Pedwin database, which is now outdated
 - ✧ There are only a few members who have been trying to keep their copy updated.
 - ✧ ESAA needs to find a program that would allow the Pedwin information to be migrated.
 - ✧ **A Brimble/Bell motion was passed to establish a committee to investigate pedigree programs that will satisfy ESAA's needs.**
13. Establish a Standing Committee to review Membership applications with no sponsors.

- ✧ **A Gray/Brimble motion was passed to establish a committee to explore membership with no sponsors.**

14. Purebred Preservation Bank update from BJ Parsons.

- ✧ AKC is encouraging Parent Clubs to develop guidelines for their breed to preserve semen for the long term.
- ✧ BJ was able to answer questions regarding the process.

15. Club Dues

- ✧ A discussion occurred regarding what ESAA wants to do going forward with BOB trophies “given” by ESAA to regional clubs for up to two specialties a year. (Currently a bowl).
- ✧ There was discussion regarding dues, trophies, bowls, as well as other possible future options.
- ✧ There was additional discussion regarding raising dues for regional clubs to offset some of the cost of the bowls.
- ✧ It was recommended that regional vice presidents go back to their clubs for input on the subject.
- ✧ Cindy Rice, Julie Brimble and Kathy Cunningham will work on a unified presentation for our regional vice presidents.

16. Fast CAT briefing

- ✧ This was not an ESAA National event. It was a Buckeye Samoyed Club event at K-9 Splash Zone in which they allowed English Setters to participate, but they refused to allow ESAA to have a supported entry.
- ✧ Neither the AKC nor ESAA gave permission for their logos to be used on the ribbons that the Committee procured at their own expense.
- ✧ Concern was expressed that ribbons were given to ESAA participants which included both the AKC logo and the ESAA logo even though this was not an AKC or ESAA approved event and ESAA may be liable if AKC should choose to pursue disciplinary action.
- ✧ AKC Delegate BJ Parsons recommended ESAA put something on the record demonstrating awareness of the technical violation regarding use of AKC and ESAA logos on event ribbons in this situation and the steps taken to correct it from happening in the future in the event AKC inquires about it.
- ✧ **A Fabelo/Cunningham motion was passed for Julie Quirk to write a letter to the Committee members involved in this situation advising them that ESAA is potentially at risk for fines or censure from AKC over the logos and content on the ribbons given to participants after the event. The members will be asked to remove or correct content on their social media which advertises the event wins as an achievement from ESAA or from an ESAA National Specialty event.**

17. ESAA Store

- ✧ Spent over \$1300 on new items this year and sold about \$500 worth of items so far.
- ✧ The 6 chairs were all sold.
- ✧ Shipping of multiple items is higher due to each item being charged an individual shipping rate per item.
- ✧ Lynda suggested that reimbursing for shipping multiple items at an excessive rate is easily reimbursed through Stripe. The original order and reimbursement owed can easily be handled by the treasurer and/or bookkeeper.

18. Historian issues

- ✧ Leslie shared some on-going concerns with getting all the National video tapes converted before they break down.

19. Membership

- * John Fabelo asked whether the ESAA membership application form has an option for a paper ballot rather than an electronic ballot. Coleen explained we have a “default” statement in our membership applications and renewal forms which indicates approval for receiving all electronic communications from ESAA.
- * There are, however, a few household memberships that have not responded to multiple requests for a second email. The requests are made to the household membership with the email that was provided with the renewal or new application. Both our membership chair and our election coordinator attempt to secure a second email. In addition, a phone call is made, and a voicemail is left as another means to get compliance to ensure that every member receives their own secure and private communication from ESAA. We will continue to work to achieve this goal.

Historical record behind the most recent Amendment to the By-Laws – in mailed packet – the full multi-step process from the formation of the committee through the amendment drafting and approval by the Board, membership, and from AKC was shared

A Raber/Bell motion to adjourn passed at 12:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Coleen M. Raber

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ESAA Secretary