

**AMERICAN SPANIEL CLUB, INC.**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

DATE: Thursday, January 5, 2006

PLACE: Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA

The meeting was called to order at 9:00a.m., Dr. Clyde E. Shaw, Presiding.

Members present. Dr. Shaw, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Stallard, Mrs. Foley, Ms. Patterson, Mrs. Campbell, Ms. Darke, Ms. Torgerson, Mrs. Ferland, Ms. Buss, Mr. Van Deman, Ms. Elliott. Treasurer, Mrs. Lippincott, Membership Chair, Mrs. Harmon.

Absent Mr. Swank, Mrs. McAlister

Committee Chairs present: Julie Virosteck, Judges' Education; Elena Duggan, Public Education; Stephen Duggan, Legal Chair, Barbara Shaw, AKC Delegate-elect

Guests: Cara Burgess, Bonnie Pike, Deborah Knight, Robert Vaughn, Lori Jones, Marilyn Spacht, Bob Smith, Anna Lee McKennon. Also see additional guests attending the 3:00 p.m. hearing on the merle color pattern.

Approval of the Agenda. Without objection, approved as printed. The minutes of the regular board meeting held on July 20, 2005 were approved by e-mail ballot on July 11, 2005 and need no further action but note that under Item 14B. Dog Hall of Fame Proposal, Mrs. Parker wishes to be removed from the list of committee members.

***Report of the President – Dr. Shaw.***

My first year has been more and less than I expected. I am amazed at the volume of email I have had to deal with. At times it is overwhelming! I still wonder how the club was run in the days before everyone had PC's. I have mentioned it in the past and will reiterate it here: I believe email creates one problem for each one it solves. Perhaps this is because I am a dinosaur. I am sure the computer saves a lot of time, but the meetings still take 8-12 hours. Do we really have that much more business than the club used to? People say things in emails they would never say to someone's face or on the phone. You can say whatever you want unfettered by a tone of voice or others' reactions to where you are going. As a result, minor phrasing choices can become points of disagreement.

I have had people email me just short of panic because they "cannot reach" another person. Turns out they have emailed them daily for several days...but have never picked up the phone to try to call them. Many of us do not use a computer at work. It is a task completely outside the realm of my daily life. Others may be in the same boat. There will be days in a row when I simply don't have time to go online, unless I don't want to clean my kennel, play with puppies or sleep.

All that being said, we made it through a year, and I feel I owe it to the club and myself to give it another try. If for no other reason, because I don't feel the club can replace so many key positions in one year with no carryovers to ease the transition.

I was "thrown to the wolves" when I prematurely assumed the presidency. I got no paperwork or files to work with until well into the year and still have received only one quarter of what I was told to expect. Immediately we lost the January show site. Toni and I burned up phone lines getting that taken care of. Then we had to replace our pivotal position of club secretary and then our AKC delegate. And now Toni is quitting. I am developing a complex. It seems I am running off all those whose presence prior presidents could take for granted.

Time marches on and you either fall into step, or get trampled. I am grateful for the folks who have volunteered for all the "no thank you" jobs, and a dedicated and knowledgeable board. Now let's roll up our sleeves and make this club better than it has ever been.

Clyde Shaw, M.D. .

### ***Report of the Secretary – Mrs. Mustard.***

The following e-mail discussion and subsequent ballots was handled by Board members since the last meeting:

#### ***1. ASC Hurricane Katrina Canine Victim Relief Fund***

On September 6, 2005 Mrs. Foley made a motion that ASC match each dollar donated by ASC-F for the Hurricane Katrina Canine Victim Relief Fund, up to \$3500. Mrs. Williams seconded the motion. The discussion period was opened on September 6 and closed on September 13, 2005/

On September 15 Mrs. Foley amended her September 6 motion as follows: The ASC will authorize up to \$2500 from the Welfare Fund to be spent directly on rescue/disaster relief; with \$1500 sent to Noah's Wish immediately and the other \$1000 to be allocated to appropriate rescue entities as needed. A committee composed of Dr Shaw, Ms. Elliott and Ms. Buss will determine such rescue entities and will report to the board as donations are made. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion on September 15, 2005. As she also seconded the original motion, Mrs. Williams needed to consent to the change. She has done so, on September 16, 2005.

The above motion was sent to all board members on September 21, 2005. The ballot was to be sent to the Secretary by September 26, 2005. No board member stated that he/she would be unable to participate in the discussion period provided nor that the e-mail attachment forwarded on September 21, 2005 could not be opened. No board member stated that they would be unable to vote during the period provided.

The vote for the motion is as follows: Yes: Mrs. Williams; Mr. Stallard; Mrs. Foley; Ms. Patterson; Mrs. Campbell; Ms. Torgerson; Mrs. Ferland; Mr. Van Deman. No: None. Not Voting: Mr. Swank; Ms. Darke; Ms. Buss; Mrs. McAlister; Ms. Elliott. Abstain: None.

The motion has passed. The Treasurer, Dr. Lippincott, is directed to send a check for \$1500 to Noah's Wish.

#### ***2. Approval of the July 20, 2005 board meeting minutes as amended.***

The minutes of the July 20, 2005 board meeting were forwarded to board members on August 29, 2005.

On September 10, 2005 it was moved by Ms. Patterson and seconded by Mrs. Ferland to accept the July 20, 2005 minutes, as amended.

The above motion was sent to all board members on September 19, 2005. The ballot was to be sent to the Secretary by September 27, 2005.

No board member stated that he/she would be unable to participate in the discussion period provided nor that the e-mail attachment forwarded on September 19, 2005 could not be opened. No board member stated that they would be unable to vote during the period provided.

The vote for the motion is as follows: Yes: Mrs. Williams; Mr. Stallard; Mrs. Foley; Ms. Patterson; Mrs. Campbell; Mrs. Ferland; Mr. Van Deman and Ms. Elliott. No: None. Not Voting: Mr. Swank; Ms. Darke; Ms. Torgerson; Ms. Buss and Ms. McAlister. Abstain: None.

The minutes of the July 20, 2005 board meeting, as amended, have been approved.

#### ***3. Selection of ASC Breeders Education Co-Chair.***

On October 18, 2005 the motion was made by Mrs. Ferland and seconded by Ms. Elliott to appoint Geneva White Jones as Co-Chair for ASC Breeders Education.

The formal discussion period was forwarded to board members on October 18, 2005 and was open until October 25, 2005.

The above motion was sent to all board members on October 26, 2005. The ballot was to be sent to the Secretary by November 11, 2005.

No board member stated that he/she would be unable to participate in the discussion period provided nor that the e-mail attachment forwarded on October 26, 2005 could not be opened. No board member stated that they would be unable to vote during the period provided.

The vote for the motion is as follows: Yes: Dr. Shaw; Mr. Stallard; Mrs. Foley; Ms. Patterson; Ms. Darke; Ms. Torgerson; Mrs. Ferland and Mr. Van Deman. No: None. Not Voting: Mrs. Williams; Mr. Swank; Mrs. Campbell; Ms. Buss; Mrs. McAlister and Ms. Elliott. Abstain: None.

The motion to appoint Genea White Jones as Co-Chair for ASC Breeders Education has passed.

#### 4. *AKC Delegate Selection*

On October 11, 2005 the four applications for the AKC Delegate for the American Spaniel Club, Inc., were forwarded to the ASC board members.

On October 24, 2005 competency forms were forwarded to each candidate for completion and return by November 11. On November 15, 2005 a ballot listing the names of the four applicants was forwarded to board members. The ballot was to be sent to the secretary by November 25, 2005.

No board member stated that he/she would be unable to participate in the discussion period provided nor that the e-mail attachment forwarded on November 15, 2005 could not be opened. No board member stated that they would be unable to vote during the period provided.

The vote for the motion is as follows: Yes: Mrs. Williams; Mr. Stallard; Mrs. Foley; Mr. Swank; Mrs. Campbell; Ms. Torgerson; Mrs. Ferland; Mrs. McAlister and Ms. Elliott. Not Voting: Ms. Patterson; Ms. Darke; Ms. Buss and Mr. Van Deman. Abstain: Dr. Shaw.

All applicants for the position, R. Wayne Bottorff, Lori S. Findley, Douglas K. Muir, and Barbara Shaw were informed of the results of the voting.

Mrs. Shaw is the new AKC Delegate for the American Spaniel Club, Inc.

Documents have been filed by the secretary and Mrs. Shaw with AKC.

#### 5. *Selection of ASC Secretary.*

There were four applicants for the position of ASC Secretary. A discussion period was established on October 24, 2005 and concluded on November 4, 2005.

A ballot was forwarded to each voting board member on November 6, 2005, with ballots to be received by the Stephen P. Duggan, ASC Legal Chair, by November 16, 2005.

Kathleen L. Patterson, Esq., abstained from voting because she was a candidate.

On November 28, 2005 all candidates were notified of the selection of Kathleen L. Patterson, Esq. as the new ASC Secretary.

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I brought the ASC Standing Rules up to date and printed them out for the new board. Kathy has those and will be distributing them at the Organizational meeting.

Much time has been spent over the past years to clean the ASC files. When I received them, it was extremely difficult to find anything. Much historical information went to Wilma Parker for her files and I understand she now has a very usable set-up. When Jane Harmon became the ASC Membership Chair, some files were forwarded to her. I am still coming across bits and pieces and will be forwarding them as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the ASC Board of Directors over the past three and a half years. I hope I have served the board and members well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy J. Mustard

The Secretary also presented the January 2006 report from Samuel Spaniel.

Samuel Spaniel continues to have an email address on our ASC website – and is available to respond to questions or issues raised by the membership of the ASC – and the website is clear on this scope limitation. Started in January 2003, over 500 emails have been received over the past three years. Only issue is that probably less than 5% of these are from the membership. I always knew dogs

could not read....guess people can't either. 173 emails for 2005, the same amount were received in 2004 and close to 170 in 2003. Questions continue to be quite varied. Below you will find copied a few inquiries that are representative of the types of questions I get. Any comments or concerns.....let me know. You know how to reach me.

Best Regards, Samuel Spaniel

**Report of the Treasurer** – Dr. Lippincott presented the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity as of November 30, 2005. Total assets are \$210,256, of which \$105,662 are restricted. The Statement of Activity shows the club with an increase in net assets of \$6,904. Most of the dues are collected in December and January, so the increase in net assets should increase by the end of the fiscal year. The final July 2005 show report was also presented, showing a net profit of over \$17,000.

**Report of the Membership Chair** - Mrs. Harmon reported that dues for 2006 are coming in each day. All potential members for January and July have been notified that their applications are received in order for election to membership at the appropriate meeting. Mrs. Harmon also presented a new ASC membership card. It has the updated ASC logo as well as the website address and it just looks more 21<sup>st</sup> century

It was moved by Ms. Torgerson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms Buss to approve the new membership card and life membership cards designed by Mrs. Harmon. Motion passed without objection.

Before proceeding to unfinished business, it was moved by Mrs. Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Foley to accept and approve all reports of club officers. Without objection, motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

Dr. Lippincott reviewed the ASC Budget with Board and explained its use for monitoring and tracking Club income and expenses both for the Board and for individual committee chairs. Board members again discussed the fact that dues income does not cover the operating expenses of the Club. The Club is in excellent financial shape because the shows have been profitable and the Board has been fiscally conservative.

Mrs. Duggan reported on the status of the *So You Want To Own A Cocker Spaniel* revision indicating that in 2005 she wrote the copy and began the photo selection for the new brochure with the generous help of designer Pat Scully. Unfortunately, because of a tragedy in Ms. Scully's family, the goal of having the finished brochure presented at the January 2006 meeting was not met. However, she expects that it will be printed and available for distribution no later than the April Board meeting.

Mr. Van Deman and Ms. Darke asked Mrs. Duggan to investigate print-on-demand publishing services.\* Mrs. Campbell moved to print 50,000 copies, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Stallard, unanimously approved.

\*Note: After the meeting adjourned, Mrs. Duggan checked with her designer and reported that this type of publishing arrangement would not be cost-effective for the type of brochure we are doing.

Dr. Lippincott reported on the status of using Pay Pal on the ASC Website. The account is set up and all that needs to be done is provide a "help" address and name a contact person. Once that is done, the Club can begin using it.

Since Mr. Delisle was unable to attend the meeting, the Board deferred consideration of the ASC Register of Merit proposal until Mr. Delisle was available to make a presentation.

The next item on the agenda was the ASC Annual Report – 2005-2006. The consensus reached was that the Board will thank Don Ploke for his efforts in developing the first draft of the 2005 report and that Dr. Shaw will to ask Mrs. Mustard to transfer all materials in her possession to the new Secretary as soon as possible.

The next agenda item was the status of the revision of the AKC bylaws. Legal Chair, Mr. Duggan, indicated he had several suggestions for the Club's revisions based on changes in New York state law. The Board asked that he and Ms Moore review the current proposal and report back to the Board.

There was no further unfinished business and the Board moved to consider the reports of the Standing Committee and Show Committee Chairs. There was no action requested on the following committee reports: AKC Gazette Columnist, ASC Archivist and Curator, ASC Bulletin Editor, ASC Health Chair, ASC Health Registry, Canine Legislation, Cocker Spaniel Breeder Referral, Cocker Spaniel Standard, Corporate Sponsorships, Finance, Foreign Relations, Fundraising, Insurance, Legal, January 2006 Futurity, July 2005 Show Chair, Media/Technology, Top Dog, and Versatility Awards. Ms. Torgerson moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Campbell to accept, as written, all reports requiring no action. Unanimously approved.

As a point of information, the Board was informed that the Delegate Credentials for Mrs. Shaw are to be published in the January and February issues of the AKC Gazette.

Ms. Buss' Rescue report set forth the need to increase awareness and support of rescue needs by the ASC membership. Dr. Shaw asked for specific suggestions as to how to increase awareness and show of support. He suggested Ms. Buss do some outreach and involve more ASC members in rescue issues. Sit down w/Sharon and investigate her successful rescue structure and report back to the Board.

The ASC Website Coordinator noted the need to budget payment for web site hosting. Discussed were issues that had affected the smooth operation of the web site. Mrs. Williams volunteered to work on developing any necessary guideline amendments. And she will serve as the Board liaison and develop a relationship with Marty and Jean. By consensus, the Board agreed that materials could be sent to Mrs. Williams and Ms. Bell at any time during the month. They will take responsibility for getting the materials to Mr. Delisle. No committee chair for ASC or ASC-F will send material directly to Mr. Delisle. Ms. Patterson is to generate a letter to ASC Committee Chairs informing them of this policy. Further, the Board decided to defer authorizing the web site hosting payment until a cost projection was available.

The Companion Events Committee asked for approval of funds to mail recognition letters. and approval of date said letters should commence. The consensus of the Board was to communicate with the chairs telling them that they have money in budget already approved to send these letters. The Board is inclined to let the committee decide on date the letters should commence. But that they shouldn't wait to send the letters until the public education brochure is ready, but rather get with the membership chair to determine how to interest people in joining ASC.

#### Education Committee Reports.

Judges Education – Mrs. Virosteck reported that at the ASC Flushing Spaniel Show this year we will be presenting Sussex Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels and Cocker Spaniels all on Friday, January 6, 2006, beginning at 10 am. We have 16 people signed up to attend one or more of these seminars at this time. She requested that the Board consider purchasing an LCD projector to use in these educational programs. By consensus, the Media Committee is to investigate and determine what projector to purchase. Mr. Van Deman to submit cost proposal online.

Breeders Education – Mrs. Jones reported on educational events planned for the National as well as her plans for a committee with regional participation. The Board authorized her to continue with these plans.

Some activities being discussed are:

- A survey to ask the memberships desires concerning Breeder Education.
- Determining the best venue and modes of communication.
- Expanding Scope to include - Care, Presentation and Training Education to compliment the Health and Wellness events.
- Advertising & Promotion

Public Education/PR - Mrs. Duggan reported on the progress of the brochure and presented goals for 2006 including developing a network of ASC members who would be willing to attend appropriate canine events nationwide, giving informal presentations of materials similar to those found in our brochure, and based upon the "So, You Want to Own a Cocker Spaniel?" theme and coordinating with the AKC in-school educational programs.

Field Committee report submitted by Mrs. Cacchio, Ms. Kolehouse, and Mrs. Linehan reported that the past year has seen a widening of outreach to the general ASC membership through developing practical resources (i.e. Field Training Kits), programming (ASC Cocker National field instinct evaluation and Working Dog Test) and through reprinting and promoting two standard spaniel field training texts plus a third focused on steadying spaniels. This year the FC also began to develop a formal relationship with other flushing spaniel parent clubs' identified field representatives, as they work through the initial stages of a national advisory committee to review AKC hunt tests rules and regulations for flushing spaniels.

The Committee asked for authorization to put their field booklets online. It was moved by Ms. Buss, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Stallard to have the Secretary inform the FC that permission was granted and they were to work with the web site liaison and web master to accomplish this. Unanimously approved. Mrs. Foley moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Torgerson, to allow the committee to advertise and promote the Cocker Field Training kits on the ASC website. Again logistics to be worked out with Ms. Williams and Ms. Bell. Unanimously approved. The Committee was encouraged to work with the Show Chair and Breeder's Education Chair to implement the Gundog Training Seminar in July.

Mrs. Patterson presented information about an AKC Hunting Test Advisory Committee Meeting and was authorized to contact the Field Committee to determine qualified names to submit if interested. The Club would pay a \$100 honorarium to partially cover travel expenses as with other AKC sponsored conferences.

January 2006 - Flushing Spaniel Show - Mrs. Mills presented her report including changes in judging the bred-by classes. AKC requires us to have Best Bred-by after BIS. Toni presented some of the problems she has with Board making decisions without consulting her. Jane and Toni to go through volunteer list to see if someone Toni can work with to apprentice as show chair to engage in succession planning. More communication before decisions are finalized. Board won't be dictated to and will try not to dictate to you.

Break for Lunch @ 11:25 a.m. Meeting resumed @ 12:35 p.m.

The Subcommittee to Explore the Future of the Health Registry introduced Mr. Edmund Dziuk, COO of OFA. A summary of his remarks follow:

The American Spaniel Club is only Parent Breed Club with health-related Futurity requirements. This indicates a forward thinking Club with regard to breed health and welfare issues. The CHIC program. Canine Health Information Center – a cooperative effort of the AKC canine health committee, and parent club committee could assist the Club in this area.

The AKC Committees started by considering health registries and what parent clubs can do with them. They decided on canned format to offer parent clubs. OFA and CHF partnered in CHIC where the goal is to increase awareness by providing a toolset that will accomplish that, to capture data and to return that data to breeders in a format they can use to improve their breeding programs.

Although the program is canned, it is highly flexible and has the ability to be tailored to club needs. CHIC began as pilot in 2001 with 8 parent clubs. Now 60 clubs participate. In order to become part of the program, a Club says we want to participate, here are the chief health concerns for our breed, and there is a screening too for this concern.

The parent club comes up with a list of tests that responsible breeders should be doing. CHF utilizes its relationships with the research community. OFA does the database management. CHIC is about awareness, encouraging health testing, improving the health of the breed. If a breeder does the tests identified by the parent club, the dog gets a CHIC number. It is important for the club and breeders to know that a dog does not need to pass – just be tested – to receive a number. Diseases are placed in database where the information available to others. CERF never releases abnormal results. OFA releases abnormal results only with a signed owner release.

What CHIC has to offer:

Quickly operational. CERF eye exams sent once per month electronically to the CHIC database; OFA also seamlessly integrated. Penn Hip or OVC (Canadian) will become eligible but owner must send documentation to CHIC; these organizations do not have the same electronic link to CHIC that OFA and CERF do. Could be used as a tool to do Futurity verifications and cut down on paperwork submittals.

Protection of data in case of a natural disaster.

Third party neutrality for handling data.

No hard copy submission of data necessary. CHIC would do Futurity verification if sent AKC #s. Cost to club would \$0.00. because CHIC within missions of what all three organizations do. Fee for service to users – i.e., pay for CERF #, pay for OFA submittal, etc. Could tailor the program to club needs. Can be seamless, put link on the ASC web page.

Bigger database for cocker breeders than club's own Health Registry.

9000 OFAs are in the CHIC network versus 1000 in ASC HR

1300 CERF numbers are in the CHIC network versus 300-400 in ASC HR

Spotlights responsibilities of "Responsible Breeders." It's all well and good to test and have results in your desk drawer. The question is what happens to your data if you stop breeding? CHIC helps archive these tests and make results available to all.

The consensus of the Board was to have Ms. Darke and her committee develop an action plan to integrate CHIC into Futurity rules.

July Shows Liaison – Ms. Patterson. Shows in 2005, 2006 and 2007 are covered in the Show Chairs' reports. The only issue needing to be considered by the Board is the location of the 2008 show.

Jerry Moon has asked for materials to investigate sites in the Pacific Northwest as possible locations for the National. The normal year for the show in Zone IV would be 2008. But, if the Board wishes to return to Indianapolis for the Zone III show (normal year 2009), you may need to consider swapping years between these zones since the Indianapolis site will not be available in 2009 because of extensive remodeling being done to the complex. Mrs. Foley is willing to chair the Zone III show if it is held in Indianapolis.

Motion by Mrs. Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Elliott, to allow Zone III to move years and hold the National in 2008 in Indianapolis with the 2009 show in Zone IV. Approved unanimously with Mrs. Foley abstaining.

Mrs. Ferland presented the show report for July 2006.

"It is with great relief I can report that the plans for the July National are going well! All committees are working to fulfill their duties and it appears all is going smoothly. Obedience trophies have been purchased. Conformation trophies still need some pledges but Bob is working on that. Rally efforts are now underway.

"Fundraising is doing well. Memorabilia is selling. Receiving good responses to our Art show. Judi Kline is making up a flyer to distribute this weekend at the show. We have many large items for our raffle table.

"To date, we have 16 vendors interested in renting space. Most will not sign a contract this early but I am sure we will get most of them to attend."

Mrs. Ferland was given authority to supervise Field Committee proposal and return to the Board if any problems arise. Other issues raised, like entertainment selection and floor covering was left to her discretion as part of the show budgeting process. And the Board suggested using an ad the Public Education Chair has already designed for the catalog.

July 2007 Cocker Spaniel National Show – Mrs. Taylor's report on the show in Oklahoma City in 2007 was considered. She requested approval of her show committee and show logo.

Approval of Show Committee as submitted. Motion was made by Mrs. Foley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms Torgerson. Unanimously approved.

The 2007 Show Logo designed by Marlys Gallagher was presented. Ms. Darke and Mr. Van Deman objected indicating they did not feel the logo was politically correct. Several other Board members agreed that they did not like the "Native American" theme language and wanted to be sensitive to the issue Mr. Van Deman and Ms. Darke were raising. Ms. Elliott said that "Native American" could easily be removed. Mr. Van Deman still objected saying he felt the logo was referring to Native Americans as "dogs."

Mrs. Williams moved to approve the proposed Show Logo with ASC getting ownership interest, and with the addition of PB logo, and removal of "Native American" language. Motion seconded by Ms. Buss.

Yes: Ms. Buss, Ms Elliott, Mrs. Foley, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Stallard, Mrs. Williams.

No: Mr. Van Deman, Mrs. Ferland, Ms. Torgerson, Ms. Darke, Mrs. Campbell.

Motion passed. Ms. Darke suggested reopening the discussion since the vote was so close. Dr. Shaw ruled the decision had been made and the Board needed to move on.

After a report on the Therapy Dog Program in Perry, the Board considered Mrs. Nelson's requests to 1) approve speakers for educational program at July 2006 National; 2) approve funds for gift of honorary ASC membership for non-members with therapy dogs or, alternately, funds for embroidered vests for non-members; and 3) approve presentation of another therapy dog program at July 2006 National. After discussion, moved by Mrs. Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Stallard that Items # 1 and 3 are to be referred back to Mrs. Nelson with instructions to contact Show Chair, Laurie Ferland, about the educational program and presentation of therapy dogs and further that the consensus is not to expend ASC monies for non-member benefits. Unanimously agreed. Ms. Patterson to inform Mrs. Nelson of the Board's decision.

Reports were received from the Zone I, II, III, and V Directors.

Mrs. Ferland's report for Zone I is contained in the report for the 2006 National which she chairs.

Ms. Buss reported on her July zone meeting in conjunction with the very successful National in Perry as well as the needs hurricanes in her zone have created during the past six months.

Mr. Van Deman reported on his October zone meeting. In addition to a discussion of open ASC positions and the Nationals in 2006 and 2007, members identified several topics of interest: Concerns over how the seating lottery is conducted and how seating is distributed for the January ASC event; Discussion of DVD sales and areas for improvement on the taping of the event; Opportunity for advertisement of litters on the ASC Website by Zone as part of a Breeders Education initiative.

Ms Elliott reported on her discussions at various specialties on the merle color/pattern. Also, how the hurricanes have affected rescue in her zone as well as the show in Oklahoma City in 2007.

Motion by Ms. Torgerson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Williams to accept the zone reports as written. Without objection, so ordered.

At this point, the Board recessed for a 15-minute break before the 3:00 p.m. hearing on Merle Cocker Spaniels.

The Board reconvened at 3:00 p.m. and considered the application to establish the Richard H. Squier PMT Fund before opening the hearing.

Mrs. Finney presented the Application for the Richard H. Squier Perpetual Memorial Trophy Fund to be awarded to Best Field Spaniel in Show at the Flushing Spaniel Show. Mrs. Tekavec, POA for Richard H. Squier has filled out the appropriate paperwork and tendered a check to the club.

After hearing a description of Mr. Squier's contributions to the Field Spaniel breed and to the American Spaniel Club, Mr. Stallard moved to establish a PMT fund to offer the Richard H Squier memorial trophy for Best Field Spaniel in Show at the Flushing Spaniel Show. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bettie Campbell. Unanimously approved. Ms. Patterson was directed to write letter to Ms. Finney and Mrs. Tekavec thanking them and notifying them of the official action.

## **Merle Hearing**

Attendees: Bob Smith, Bill Gorodner, Sharon Reed, Joan Stallard, Harriet Kamps, Linda Donaldson, Barbara Shaw, Cara Burgess, Jeff Wright, Bonnie Pike, Debbie Knight, Julie Virosteck, Gale Golden, Bob Rubic, Anna Lee McKennon.

Jeff Wright presented his committee report on the merle gene. It was a USDA kennel which produced the merle cockers. Rusty Butch (whelped 1979) was bred two bitches within same week and puppies from those breedings, born in 1988, expressed the merle color/pattern

In order to investigate further, there needs to be a written request from ASC on ASC letterhead asking for complete stud record of Rusty Butch with colors he produced and similar complete record of the two bitches. The letter should be sent to David Roberts. Maybe can get registration revoked on these two original puppies and from everything on down. Jeff urged the Board to follow through. Pedigrees may well be falsified – so AKC might revoke.

Summary of Mr. Wright's committee report:

1. color alone is evidence these animals are not purebred
2. our breed already has many health issues – this gene is going to add even more health issues, including the possibility of lethal genes, lack of eyes, deafness, etc.
3. without regard for health, this color is being encouraged by breeding for this in various puppy mills.

Doing nothing is not the answer. The ASC needs to pursue this issue and do something to try to protect the breed. AKC has allowed our Stud Book to be compromised by their acceptance of fraudulent litter registrations as well as by taking it upon themselves to change color descriptions to permit registration of colors the American Spaniel Club does not recognize. The committee also believes ASC needs to take a stronger stand on merle because of the health issue associated with the breed.

Cara Burgess. AKC won't pull registration. Abhor color but think we should allow them to register the color AKC number and educate breeders and public.

Sharon Reed. Inspected kennels for AKC. Found B/T Labrador in kennel where Labs and Dobes were bred and was told by AKC to drop the issue. AKC will take money. If parents are registered, AKC will register offspring.

Bill Gorodner discussed the problem of identifying the color by appearance alone and gave the example that sable merle collie can look like a regular sable collie.

Anna Lee McKennon was interested in identifying the merle gene marker utilizing Dr. Murphy's test. Then having a knowledgeable vet to analyze report to present to AKC.

Bob Smith suggested starting with ASC members who are merle breeders in violation of the code of ethics. He suggested that the onus was on members to prove merles have no genetic markers from other breeds which are legitimately merle.

Barbara Shaw suggested approaching ASC members asking them to participate in a study of the merle gene. Bill Gorodner suggested that there are enough roan cockers to show difference in gene between merle and roan.

At the close of the hearing, Ms. Torgerson moved that Board follow Mr. Wright's recommendation and request information from AKC on the stud records of Rusty Butch, Timberline's Betty and Penny Locks; Ms. Darke 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved.

### New Business

Consideration of applicants for membership and election to membership by written, secret ballot was deferred to the Executive Session of the Board.

It was moved by Mrs. Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Buss that the following members who have had continuous membership for 25 years be granted Life Membership. Unanimously approved.

October 1980- Caron Codina, MS  
Barbara J. Stein, NY  
Joy E. Stevens, MA  
January 1981- Jackie Dew, AZ  
Patricia B. Leamy, DE

After a discussion that the records of the membership chair are complete and accurate while the files containing applications and letters of recommendation are incomplete, it was moved by Mr. Stallard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Torgerson, that the new Secretary should be permitted to dispose of old applications and letters of recommendation while retaining signed Code of Ethics cards. Unanimously approved.

The Board also discussed other old files and, by consensus, authorized the disposal of materials not necessary for either historical documentation or the operation of the club. The Secretary and Membership Chair are to ask the Curator to review materials to make that determination.

Dr. Shaw reported on an AKC Request for Parent Breed Clubs to Initiate the Use of DNA for parentage identification of all breeding stock. Ms. Darke and her committee were given the responsibility of adding the feasibility of this to CHIC proposal.

Non-Cocker Club Membership – Dr. Shaw reported on a request from Judy Hogentogler, a member of the Greater Chesapeake Welsh Springer Spaniel Club that wished to join ASC. As the bylaws permit this type of membership, the membership chair was directed to respond to the query indicating that ASC would welcome their membership and enclosing a membership packet.

Procedures for Counting of ASC Ballots – Mrs. Ahlquist had a proposal to utilize outside, independent auditors to conduct all ASC elections. This is a revival of the proposal that Dr. Grossman returned to Gary Walker with instructions from the Board to benchmark, ascertain interest, and identify new funding before resubmitting proposal.

The consensus was to ask Mrs. Alquist to come back w/ specific recommendations for this club; a description of how other breed clubs conduct their elections and judges' selection; as well as the cost of outside auditors. Ms. Patterson to write Mrs. Alquist and ask her to follow through. Dr. Lippincott suggested an accounting fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi, may do this for small amount if it fits within the school year framework.

ASC Mailings – Ms. Patterson distributed copies of other breed clubs' newsletters, magazines, etc. All of them were in a glossy magazine format that accepted advertising for members, provided informative articles, etc. Ms. Patterson also presented a price quote from a printer experienced in dog publications.

The Board discussed the need to make our future mailings more value-added to the membership. Content suggestions included photographs, making members aware of the new Board members, etc. It was moved by Ms. Buss, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Stallard to authorize the next Bulletin as an up to 12-page, self cover magazine format. Unanimously approved. The Board will evaluate this mailing and make choices for future mailings at that time.

The Board adjourned its regular meeting @ 4:50 p.m. for its executive session.