



Minutes of the April 18, 2008 Annual Meeting:
Lyons Gate Hotel and Conference Center, McClellan, CA

Meeting Called to order at 12:20PM. Sign-in sheets for Members and Guest had been distributed by Recording Secretary Jan Leikam prior to lunch. After the sheets were collected it was established that a quorum was present. We have 564 Voting Members, 10% = 57 needed for a quorum.

President Lydia Pruett introduced all 2008 Officers and Members of the Board to the membership. Laurie Kasowski as Region 4 Governor welcomed all to California and acknowledged the hard work of Michael McClain and Lorrie Scott as Facility Coordinators for this National.

Minutes of the April 27, 2007 Annual Meeting. Lynda Gallaspey moved that the minutes be approved as printed, second by Fred Edlin. **Motion approved.**

Jan Leikam presented a shortened Recording Secretary's report.

We have a current membership of 564 voting members, 12 Junior members and 14 Foreign members. There are 461 households with at least one member and 142 Life Members. This equates to approximately 25% of our membership with Life Member status. Nadine Johnson moved to approve, second by Roni Zucker, **Motion approved.**

Kelly Brunarski introduced herself as Treasurer with a short but very impressive bio: "I received my Ph.D. in finance from The Ohio State University and I am currently an Associate Professor of Finance at Miami University in Oxford, Oh. My husband and I live in Loveland, Ohio (a suburb of Cincinnati) and we have been showing Borzoi since 1993. We currently have three Borzoi."

Ms Brunarski states that we have a total of \$45, 296.97 in the various designated funds and thanked Fred & Carol Vogel for their efforts to establish an on-going fund for seed money for each National. Diane Davis moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Valoria Tarantella seconded, **Motion approved.**

Barbara Skinner presented to the membership the report on the Beverly Taylor Trust. She thanked the members of the Committee who have put such thought and time into the establishment of the Trust: Karen Denning, Jim Gibson, Kathleen Kapaun, and Laurie Kasowski. R.Lynn Shell-Whitlock is replacing Kathleen Kapaun on this committee. Karen Staudt-Catabona moved to have the story of the Trust and its objectives inserted into each National Specialty catalogue. Ron Williams seconded – **Motion approved.**

Dee Jones reported on the BCOA rescue Committee. She called for volunteers for a permanent list for in-house checks and asked for people to assist in various projects.

Bill Hemby reported on the various legislative issues throughout the United States and outlined the efforts of various organizations to defeat the proposed spay/neuter and breed-specific laws. K C Artley moved to approve his report, Karen Mays seconded – **Motion approved.**

Life Membership

Lydia Pruett indicated that Jon Steele will present proposal of the Life Membership Committee. She indicated that we can vote on which proposal to send to the entire membership for a vote, but we can not actually approve one of the alternatives at this meeting as this is a change to the Constitution and By-Laws. Jon Steel presented the three alternatives considered by this Committee and suggestions for other approaches were presented by various Club Members, i.e. canceling the Life Membership status entirely; adding an age requirement such as 65 years old or having Life Membership be an honorary award. Kelly Brunarski stated that she thought AKC will allow changes for future Life Members only. Patti Neale moved that we suspend all **future** 'Life Member' status and that this be the Constitutional Change to be presented to the Membership for vote. Fred Edlin seconded, **Motion approved.**

The solutions proposed by the Committee (Jon Steele, Shen Smith and Karen Mays):

The Borzoi Club of America has three options to help the ever increasing subsidy of the cost of the life members exemption of dues on our treasury.

There are 451 member households in the BCOA. Of those 141 are life members. Over the next five years we will have 35 qualifying new life members. On average over a ten year look we have 8 members per year qualify for life membership. In the last 3 years we have averaged 10 new members. Of those 10 this does not account for those whose memberships drop or lapse in the first few years they join.

In essence 31% of the members are life members, in 3 years it will be 33% and so forth as time progresses.

Our three options to help subsidize the taxing effect of the life members on our treasury are;

1. Raise the membership dues of the non life members to offset the costs of mailings and balloting to all members.
2. Change the constitution to increase or eliminate or suspend new life members. Note; according to a call with AKC this would take a vote of the entire membership but in addition the vote would need to be approved by the majority of the members affected (i.e. the life members).
3. Charge a nominal mailing fee to all members regular and life to cover the costs of ballots and mailings to the entire membership and keeping the dues down and spread the increase in costs across all members.

Of course, a fourth option is to have more fund raisers to cover the expenses but we all know that this would only be a temporary situation to an ongoing issue.

Tom Golcher requested that the General Membership be allowed to vote on all three of the Life Membership suggestions from the Committee, but as the motion to suspend future awards had been passed by the General Membership present, this motion was withdrawn.

New Business

Judging restrictions for those elected to judge the BCOA National Specialty were discussed. John Rowton moved, Toby Brandtman seconded to require a 1 year moratorium for judging all Borzoi Specialties plus a 6 month moratorium on all Borzoi judging in the Region of the National. Karen Spey moved to amend John Rowton's motion to exclude both Westminster KC and the Eukanuba show from the restriction –Scott Doane second. Vote on the amendment: 19 yes, 21 no. **Amendment failed.**

Original motion approved.

Lydia Pruett announced that the 2010 BCOA National Specialty will be held at the Drawbridge Inn, Mitchell, KY. The dates are May 16-22, 2010 – Facility Coordinator is Gale Snoddy.

Jon Steele presented the newest AKC class for 'Amateur Handlers' which Clubs can offer beginning in 2009. After discussion questioning the necessity of this class as our breed has an overwhelming preponderance of 'amateur' handlers and the intention of encouraging novice exhibitors would not be accomplished, Barbara Skinner moved to not offer this class, Barbara O'Neill seconded, **motion approved.**

The creation of an official application for the re-imburement of expenses for Juniors to compete in either the Eukanuba or the Westminster show was announced. Requirements will be (1) to show a Borzoi in these events and (2) the Junior must reside in the household of a BCOA member in good standing or be an approved junior member of BCOA. It was decided to include a request for donations to this fund on the dues notice each year. Suggestions were solicited for additional fund-raising projects – suggestions to be sent to Barbara Lord and/or members of the Board.

As the AKC Eukanuba show will remain in California for a number of years, a request for volunteers to assist in the "Meet the Breeds" activity was made.

Motion to adjourn made by Jan Leikam, seconded by Jon Steele.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45PM