



Chambersburg Area Kennel Club, Inc.

Minutes of Dec. 19, 2019, Regular Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Chambersburg Area Kennel Club was held **Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019**, at Panera in Chambersburg because the Falling Spring Family Life Center was locked when members arrived, with no explanation or forewarning.

Attendees: Judy Alexander, Suzanne E. Benchoff, Courtney Caraccioli, Marguerite Plank, Tom Rolenaitis, Sandie Rolenaitis, Charlene Stone, and Adair (Bunny) Toddes.

President Charlene Stone opened the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes: Emailed by Secretary Marguerite Plank. Motion to approve by Sandie Rolenaitis, seconded by Courtney Caraccioli.

President's report:

Charlene Stone: Thank you ALL for a very successful 2019. We are a great group of people and our numbers are increasing. This year has been trying at times but working together brought us through some unpleasant experiences & some great experiences. WE ARE CAKC!

Treasurer's report:

Suzanne Benchoff: The Checking account had a beginning balance of \$18,124.69 and an ending balance of \$16,217.42. Notable expenses were a check to the Expo Center for \$875 and payments to instructors and judges for the handling class and room rental at GARA.

Secretary Report: Marguerite Plank emailed a copy of the November minutes to members. Sandie motioned to accept the minutes as distributed. Courtney seconded.

Committee Reports

Programs and Education Committee: Bunny Toddes' planned presentation on Hunt Tests is postponed because we had no access to Falling Springs and had to relocate to Panera. She will give it at a later date. It was suggested that Sandie might do a presentation on Shibas in February because Bunny will likely still be recuperating from her planned surgery..

Nominating Committee: No report until next election.

Membership: Bunny Toddes said there is no new activity to report. Bunny will order jackets on Friday. She has a question about T-shirts at \$8 each (XXL \$10.50). Should she order

several of different sizes to keep on hand and give to members. Yes—spend about \$150. Jackets must be paid for.

Suzanne has a new discussion on member recognition. She has seen clubs give recognition for significant accomplishments, for example, napkin rings embossed with date and names, which she says are not particularly functional. We should brainstorm about what to do to recognize members' accomplishments. Bunny suggested members should be recognized for accomplishments on Facebook.

Also nametags are \$10 each for pins.

Breeder Referral: Per agenda: Our website being point of contact were there any hits? We have several links to AKC's site for breeder referral and breed rescue organization.

Website / Facebook: (Clarence Gelwicks, who maintains the Facebook page, was absent.) Marguerite provided information on website updates and other activity in a separate Secretary's Report, attached.

Match Committee: Per Charlene, we should start to think about planning our match over the winter so we are ready to go. Did Clarence & Judy agree on being in charge of the Match for 2020? (Judy says "yes.") We have plenty of ribbons, but we need to line up judges. People should give judge suggestions to Judy.

Community Relations Committee: Suzanne Benchhoff & Bunny Toddes. Last year we visited the nursing home after Christmas. Suzanne won't be contacting anyone until January. If we are able to go in February, that's a good time for Bunny, too.

Tom proposed that in the future we consider a Friday night match before the spring shows, but not this year, since this is the first time we're holding it at the Carlisle facility.

Bunny says the newspaper should do a feature on local successful handlers, particularly since the National show's BIS and RBIS are both from the Adams County area. Suzanne thinks we should do something to honor both those handlers.

Handling Class: Bunny Toddes & Suzanne Benchhoff: Referring to the previous month's minutes, the York show is March 11-15. Tentative dates for handling class are at Feb. 17, March 2, 9, and 14. We could do seven classes and a match. Becky Kirzner, Stacy Marine, Lynn Baker, Kai (Marine's friend) are possible instructors. Bunny wants to email and ask what dates work for them. It's after Westminster New York. Bunny says Steve Toddes will call GARA to reserve the room. Club members should take turns helping lay out the floor since Bunny will have limited after surgery. Sign up to be there at 6 p.m. to lay out the mats.

Show Committee: Charlene Stone/Suzanne Benchoff/Bunny Toddes: Charlene asks for trophy donations and is collecting commitments for classes. Tom and Sandie Rolenaitis are underwriting Shibas. Judy is donating toward whippets; Clarence and Charlene are supporting WD and WB for whippets as well. Courtney is making baskets to honor American Akitas. Marguerite will support BOB for Rat Terriers and Border Terriers

From Charlene's meeting agenda: We have a firm agreement with the Basenji Club & Puli Club for supported entries. The Pulis will support both Friday and Saturday; the Basenji's will do Saturday only. There will not be sweepstakes this year in either breed. Basenjjs asked if it would be possible to have a Veteran Class for them but I believe we would have to offer it for all breeds, I will be checking on this with AKC. They also requested use of an empty ring to put on a Rally Demo & offer interested people to run through. I had this requested twice. When asked the first time I told them that this was our first time at this venue & we were unsure of the entry & that the availability of a ring couldn't be guaranteed. They requested that this be advertised in the Premium List. I would like to tell them that the only way we could consider accommodating this request would be to put it in the premium to be either offered after Groups/BIS on Friday only or as time & space permits. Personally I would like to skip it all together until we see how our entry is. This is not a revenue generator as they are offering it at no charge.

Offer bred-by at the show? AKC is offering free bred-by exhibitor registration.

We have reserved the Golf Cart with headlights from Nolan Golf Carts located adjacent the Expo Center \$250 for 3 days.

Charlene also reported: "I did receive the Premium List blanks to be completed and returned to Rau. I returned the signed contract to them in mid-August. I called them asking where it was, put on hold, then told it would be here by the end of the week or next week. Obvious to me that it has not be sent or ready to send. This document is due mid-January, when I asked if it was still due on that date, was put on hold again then told that the end of the month would be OK. I then asked why we haven't received it and was told without being put on hold that they are busy. Quite frankly I think it may be time to revisit MB-F as superintendent, do you have any suggestions?" Suzanne suggested Charlene get a counter bid.

Other Business

Old Business: Farm Show Meet the breeds? If you can come Jan 5-11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Suzanne will pick up parking passes. Contact Suzanne by email with your details. Suzanne says they will be set up in the near corner of the building.

New Business: None.

Brag:

- Courtney's Jiro (NO KITSUNEBI KENSHA) went BOB and had several wins. Tosh was select dog from the Veterans class at Central Jersey and South Jersey, over the #1 dog in the country.
- Charlene said Beck earned 2nd SC leg. Ava went BOB and Group 1. She also reported for Clarence that JoJo won Veterans Class for 1 point.
- Marguerite reported that Neely earned URX6, a UKC rally title.
- Judy reported that at the Allentown shows a friend's dog Lulu won
- This brings the "slush fund" up to \$74 for slush fund.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Motion Sandie, second Courtney.



Secretary's Report, Dec. 19, 2019

- Per an email from Suzanne on 9/23/2019, I updated the list of officers for the PFDC via an online form. Suzanne is delegate 1 and Sandra is delegate 2. There are two alternate delegate spaces open that are currently not filled.

AKC communications: Forwarded the 12/3/19 Event Operations email to members.

Other communications:

- Received an email via the website contact form seeking handling classes closer to Carlisle. I provided the OTCH club's website address, saying I thought they had drop-in classes. I followed up with information that we'd be holding shows in Carlisle this May.
- I am omitting email contacts trying to sell website optimization services and occasional random submissions from people who don't actually have a question for us.
- At her request, I gave Bunny Toddes several note cards, envelopes, and four of the postage stamps that Suzanne had picked up for me. Bunny wanted them to pay those handling class instructors she wasn't able to pay in person.
- Bunny found a copy of last May's meeting minutes for me, so now I have a set of all the minutes from December 2018 forward posted to the members' area on the website.
- **Question:** Do we have a central archive for minutes and other records? It will be cumbersome to pass them from secretary to secretary going forward. How about a metal document case to keep in the storage shed?

Website report:

- Members are not making use of the members' area of the website. If there's a functionality to make the area more useful that you'd like me to add, such as a place to discuss a topic (such a feature is already available on each page containing minutes), please let me know. That could be an advantage over an email exchange because all comments would be in one place, as opposed to separate messages.

The most recent member login was Suzanne Benchoff on Oct. 9. Nine members have never logged in at all.

- Uploaded a couple of pictures from the Nov. 18 handling class to the Facebook page. Sara Rudolph had taken them and forwarded them to me.
- Added a statistics counter to the web site on Nov. 25. Members will be able to log in and click a button on the Members' home page to view statistics. I added Clarence as a co-administrator to that project on www.Statcounter.com.
 - On 12/2/2019 I noticed page view from China and Pakistan. We can only use the Wordfence "country blocking" if we pay for the upgrade (\$99/year).
- Did some timely updates on the web site 11/27, including removing the handling class banner and adding a photo of the fun match winners. I figured out how to work the social sharing plugin (already installed) so now we can see the latest post from the Facebook page on the website.
- Uploaded the fun match winners to both the web page and the Facebook page.

- On Dec. 16, I added more information to the bottom of the website home page, adding multiple links for articles:
 - Choosing a breed rescue group (an AKC page) in the section on “Are You Looking for a Dog?”
 - Another AKC link about “Why No Mixed Breeds,” with a link to the AKC Canine Partner program.
 - A link to *Canine Chronicle's* article on “purposeful and responsible breeding.” No permission is required to post a link.
- The Photo Gallery page could use some fresh paint or a new approach. It currently shows lots of pictures of the March 2019 Handling Class and Fun Match winners. I could keep it as a sub-page with a link on a subsequent pages.

There are a number of pages left over from the previous website version that I think can safely be deleted, if club members agree—I'd like to have members' input on that before doing so. I can make them viewable through a blind URL (one not linked in the website) if you want to view them first. The titles and topics include:

- Fran and Judy Going Away (2014)
- Gallery (undated photos; page created in 2012)
- Happy Valley Cluster (3 pages, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Match Show 2013
- Newslitters (created 2013)
- Our Stars (2013)