

PBGF Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 8, 2016

Breakneck Beagle Club, Zelenople, PA

Delegates in Attendance: Beechton, Bellwood, Breakneck, Central, Elizabethtown, Hilltop, Indiana Co., Jacobus, Lebanon Co., Lycoming Co., Lykens Valley, Monroe, Northern Lancaster, Oil Creek, Presque Isle, Pucketos, Rainbow, Shamokin, Sharpsville, Susquehanna Valley, Webster

- I. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Jim Katchko at 6:10 PM and opened with prayer.

- II. **Approval of Minutes** - Grace Roland was unable to attend. Jim Katchko read from an email sent by Grace apologizing for the delay in compiling the June meeting minutes. She stated that she will send out the minutes as soon as she can.

- III. **Introduction of Guests** - Mike Luchetta from Purina spoke, thanking the delegates for their support. He reminded everyone to turn in their weight circles and if anyone had any questions, he would be at trial through Sunday about lunch time.

- IV. **Officers' and Directors' Reports**
 - A. **President** – Jim Katchko announced that, for personal reasons, he would be stepping down as president at the end of his term. He thanked the officers with whom he served, the delegates, and the federation for the opportunity.
 - B. **Eastern Vice-President** – Jim Girafalco announced that he, too, would be stepping down at the end of his term. “I do things in fours in my life and I have been Eastern Vice-President for four years,” he said.
 - C. **Western Vice-President** – Jim Kazmarek had no report at this time
 - D. **Treasurer's Report** – Dave Sharer stated the PBGF checking account had an opening balance of \$6,962.00 as of 5/31/2016. During the period there was an income of \$2,460.00 and expenditures of \$2,895.34 leaving a balance of \$6,526.00 as of 9/30/2016. A motion was made by Susquehanna Valley, seconded by Beechton to accept the Treasurers Report as read. The motion passed unanimously.
 - E. **Secretary** – Grace Roland was unable to attend.
 - F. **Communications Liaison** – Claire Spettell was unable to attend. She sent an email which Jim Katchko read to the delegates. She asked that all schedule changes be directed to Jim Kazmarek as Western Vice-President so that he can make sure there are no schedule conflicts. If a trial needs to be cancelled, clubs can contact Claire directly so that she can update the field trial schedule on the website.

V. Committee Reports

- A. **Treasurer's Annual Audit Committee Selections** – Jim Katchko asked the following to participate in the annual treasurer's audit: Barbara Kazmarek, Karen Girafalco, and Mike Johnson. All have graciously accepted. Jim noted that all three are either an accountant or financial services counselor.
- B. **Hall of Fame** – Two hounds were nominated for the Hall of Fame: FC Shoreline Ellie and FC Willies Double Copper Penny. There are no people on the ballot this year. Ballots were available at the meeting and will be emailed to those on the PBGF distribution list. Completed ballots are due to Jim Katchko by 12/19/2016.
- C. **Banquet (2017)** – Dave Sharer reminded everyone that the annual banquet is actually a luncheon with the awards ceremony to follow. Cost of lunch is \$5. The scope of the day will include the PBGF January meeting, lunch, and the awards ceremony. All will take place at the Zafar Grotto in South Williamsport on Sunday, January 8, 2017.
- D. **By-Law Committee** – A proposed change to By-Law Article #10 Section One, eliminating qualifying trial per capita fees and raising annual club dues to \$50, was considered by the delegates. The proposal passed with 18 votes in favor and 1 opposed. A proposed change to Running Rule B 2, requiring measurement for all hounds in accordance with AKC Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures was considered by the delegates. The proposal passed 19 – 0.
- E. **Website Updates** – In an email, Claire Spettell asked that delegates send trial cancellations to her as soon as a decision is made so updates to the schedule can be posted and information can be distributed to clubs. If a date change is being requested, that request must be approved by Jim Kazmarek as the Western Vice-President. Once approved, Claire will make the change to the website.
- F. **Political Awareness** – SB 1166 which would allow the PA Game Commission to set its own license fees is still in committee in the PA House of Representatives. Jim Katchko read a request for support from the commission and spoke of the positive relationship that has developed between the commission and the PBGF. Jim Kazmarek spoke in opposition to the bill.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Derby Championship Trial Review** – Jim Girafalco provided a review of the Derby Championship held June 18-19, 2016 at the Mason-Dixon Beagle Club in Thomasville, PA. There were 44 entries, rabbits were plentiful, and the trial went smoothly.
- B. **PBGF Raffle (2016-2017)** – Dave Sharer reported that all the raffle tickets have been distributed. Dave requested that since this is our principle revenue generator for the year, at all tickets be sold and that returns be made as soon as possible.
- C. **Consistency Standings Report** - Bob Bish read the current consistency standings and stated that the updated results are published on our website. Bob asked that each club's FTS send him the results as soon as possible so that he can get that information to Claire Spettel. If there are any questions or issues please contact Bob.
- D. **Non-Profit Status Update** - Jim Kazmarek has been working diligently on determining the if federation qualifies as a 501 c3 non-profit organization. Pursuant to direction given by the federation, he and Dave Sharer met with legal representation to determine

the chances an application for 501 c3 status would be successful, the steps necessary to make the application, and the legal costs. Legal costs are estimated to be approximately \$1,000 but the potential for increased revenue are substantial. Jim pointed out that Walmart has funds available but contributes to organizations with 501 c3 status. The delegates agreed we should keep investigating the possibility of 501 c3 status but no motion was made to invest money in an application just yet. What is needed from clubs to bolster an application is information on what each one does to benefit the community beyond field trials, such as hosting vaccination clinics, sponsoring youth events, etc. Compiling a list of such events will help further the cause of an application.

E. Beagle Advisory Committee - Dr. John Cable reported the following from the AKC's BAC conference call held in late June:

- The vote regarding the creation of the title of Grand Field Champion passed 10-3 with Bryan Bush, Wayne Heckley, and John voting against it.
- Also passing 10-3, with the same people voting in opposition as in the above proposal, was a provision allowing derby hounds to accumulate licensed trial points in a federation derby championship trial. A hound could accumulate points at only one federation derby championship trial and the possible number of points available would be capped at 40. For example, if a derby won a federation championship in which 50 hounds were entered, the winner would receive credit for 1 win and 40 points. The thought was that 1 win and 40 points would be 33% of a field champion title and the committee did not want to go beyond that percentage. Wins and points counting toward field champion status cannot be earned at a futurity championship. John stated that the final wording of this proposal passed only after lengthy discussion and compromise.

F. Club Attendance at PBGF Meetings - At the June meeting, delegates addressed the issue of club attendance at PBGF meetings. At issue were club delegates not attending the required two of three meetings that are held annually. Difficulty in terms of distance for some club delegates as well as delegates attending via conference call were discussed in June and reviewed at this meeting. A motion was made by Lykens Valley to amend the by-laws by reducing the number of meetings each club must attend to one each year. The motion was seconded by Shamokin. After further discussion, the delegates voted unanimously to place the by-law proposal on the January agenda.

VII. New Business

A. 2017 Trial Schedule - The 2017 Field Trial Schedule is posted on line. Delegates were asked to check it and to make any changes by contacting Jim Kazmarek as Western Vice-President. Jim needs to check for conflicts before approving a change. Once that has been done Claire Spettell will make the change to the federation's master schedule.

B. Thanks to Sponsors and Host Club - Jim Katchko thanked all our sponsors for their generosity: Lion Country Supply, *PA Outdoor News*, Tractor Supply Company, and most especially, Purina. Jim also thanked the officers and members of the Breakneck Beagle Club for going beyond providing wonderful food and having the grounds in excellent condition. Their great generosity also included, but was not limited to, donating horses for judges and providing jackets to all the field winners during the championship.

C. Election of Officers -

President – Josh Rissinger, nominated by Lycoming County and seconded by Breakneck. Motion to close nominations made by Susquehanna Valley and seconded by Webster.

Eastern Vice-President – Jeremy Bowles, nominated by Breakneck and seconded by Shamokin. Motion to close nominations made by Webster and seconded by Lykens Valley.

Treasurer – Dave Sharer, nominated by Breakneck and seconded by Shamokin. Motion to close nominations made by Pucketos and seconded by Sharpville.

Eastern Director – Mark Malloy, nominated by Monroe and seconded by Breakneck. Motion to close nominations made by Beechton and seconded by Presque Isle.

Western Director – Ed Sankey, nominated by Monroe and seconded by Presque Isle. Motion to close nominations made by Shamokin and seconded by Lebanon County.

Communications Liaison – Claire Spettell, nominated by Lykens Valley, seconded by Shamokin. Motion to close nominations made by Sharpville and seconded by Northern Lancaster.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 8:25 PM by Webster and seconded by Lycoming Co.