

January 10th 2015 PBGF Delegates Meeting Minutes

Delegates in attendance: Bellwood, Breakneck, Carlisle, Central, Eldred, Elizabethtown, Hilltop, Indiana County, Jacobus, Lebanon County, Lycoming County, Lykens Valley, Monroe, Northern Lancaster, Oil Creek, Rainbow, Sharpsville, Stein's Hollow, Susquehanna Valley, Towanda, Tunkhannock, Webster, York & Adams.

Absent: Beechton, Cambria, Conemaugh Valley, Mason Dixon, Puketos, Rayburn, Shamokin, West Branch.

Officers in attendance: President Jim Katchko, Eastern Vice President Jim Girafalco, Western Vice President Jim Kazmarek, Secretary Kay Coles, Treasurer Dave Shearer, Director of Communications Claire Spettell

Directors: Dr. John Cable, Jeff Sherman, James Roush. Absent: John Elder

- I. Prayer and Call to Order:** At 11:00 am President Jim Katchko called the meeting to order, beginning with prayers for those members and friends we lost in 2014 and for their families.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the October meeting were provided in electronic and written form. A motion was made by Bellwood and seconded by Webster to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Officers' and Director's Reports:**
 - a. President:** Jim Katchko
 - 1. Introduction of 2015 PBGF Sponsors - *Hounds and Hunting* and *Better Beagling*** looks forward to continuing our relationship of mutual support. Owner Tom DePriest has agreed to keep PBGF consistency standings at no charge as long as the federation continues to advertise its trials in both magazines.
 - 2. Purina** - Mike Luchetta was introduced and apologized for not being at the All-Age Championship Trial in October. He and Mark Malloy informed the delegates that the reporting of Purina Trial results would continue through the end of January and that the PBGF would probably have the winning hound.
 - b. Eastern Vice President:** Jim Girafalco – No report
 - c. Western Vice President:** Jim Kazmarek – No report
 - d. Secretary:** Kay Coles - Asked everyone to please sign in on your club's line on the attendance sheet.
 - e. Treasurer's Report:** Dave Sharer - Reported the beginning balance as of September 30, 2014 was \$8,522.41. Since the last meeting there was an income of \$4,263.00 and bills paid totaled \$3,191.88 leaving a balance of \$9,593.53. Director Jeff Sherman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, seconded by Stein's Hollow. Motion passed unanimously.

- f. **Director of Communications:** Claire Spettell – No report
- g. **Board of Directors:** Jim Roush, Jeff Sherman, and Dr. John Cable – No reports.

V. Committee Reports

- a. **Show Seminars:** John Kiak expressed concern over the cost, availability of judges, and interest in show competitions at PBGF clubs' qualifying trials. Discussion will be continued at the June meeting.
- b. **Hall of Fame:** Dr. John Cable presented proposed changes for hounds to be eligible for the Hall of Fame. He explained that the idea is to streamline the process and make it fairer. Motion to accept the proposal and vote on it at the June meeting made by Tunkhannock, seconded by Towanda. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Banquet 2016:** Dave Sharer asked if anyone had banquet suggestions. Motion made by Monroe, seconded by Stein's Hollow to continue to hold the meeting and banquet at the Zafar Grotto in South Williamsport but to move it to the second Sunday in January (1/10/2016). Hearing a split voice vote, delegate votes were counted. The motion passed: Yes - 17, No – 3, Abstentions -2. Subsequent motion by Susquehanna Valley, seconded by Northern Lancaster to have one meal instead of two. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Directory Updates:** Please get updates and changes, especially concerning new club officers, to Jim Kazmarek or Claire Spettell.
- e. **Website:** Directory updates will be made on the website.
- f. **By-law Committee:**
 - 1. **Voting of Officers:** Jim Girafalco opened discussion to allow federation officers, with the exception of the president, to have voting rights in the manner of the federation's directors. This is not allowed under Roberts Rules of Order. Subsequent discussion resulted in a motion being made by Northern Lancaster, seconded by Stein's Hollow to amend the by-laws and change the title of the Director of Communications to Communications Liaison. The change would also eliminate the communication officer's voting rights. Motion passed unanimously and will be voted on during the June meeting.
 - 2. **Membership in the PBGF:** Jim Katchko asked the delegates to consider the by-law that states to be PBGF members, clubs must be from the state of Pennsylvania. Motion made by Director Dr. John Cable, seconded by Tunkhannock, to open federation membership to clubs outside the state. Hearing a split voice vote, delegate votes were counted. The motion passed: Yes – 19, No – 4.

g. Political Awareness:

- 1. SB 1068** – We are waiting for this bill to be reintroduced under a different number during the new legislative session.
- 2. PGC Meeting** – Preliminary Seasons and Bag Limits Meeting to be held Sunday, 1/25/2015. Doors open at 12:00 noon with the Commissioners beginning to take public comment at 1:00 PM.
- 3. Appalachian Cottontail Study** – PGC Small Game Biologist Emily Boyd was introduced. She gave an informative presentation, discussing this study, the Game Commission’s “Wildlife Action Plan,” and its Snowshoe Hare Study. The Appalachian Cottontail is a separate subspecies from the Eastern Cottontail. It is smaller, prefers mountainous home ranges, and colder climates. Anyone harvesting a cottontail suspected to be an Appalachian is asked to remove the head and freeze it for later delivery to Biologist Boyd. Snowshoe hare are a separate species from cottontails as they change color in winter and rabbits do not. The Commission continues to study hare and changes to its habitat via trapping, radio collars, and hunter surveys.

Break for lunch and individual conversations with PGC Biologist Emily Boyd taken from 12:15 to 1:20 PM.

V. Old Business

- a. Treasurer’s Audit Report:** Jim Roush, John Elder, Dave McDowell – Everything is in order. “Nice job, Dave!”
- b. West Mayfield Reinstatement:** Jim Girafalco as Eastern Vice-President received a letter from the West Mayfield Beagle Club seeking reinstatement to the PBGF. This matter was discussed at the October meeting. West Mayfield was unanimously voted in and welcomed back as a member club of the PBGF.
- c. Championship Trial Review / Preview:** Jim Kazmarek, Jim Girafalco reported on upcoming events.
 - 1. June 13-14, 2015** (24th weekend on the AKC calendar) Derby Championship Trial will be held on the grounds of the Central Beagle Club. After discussion, motion was made by Monroe and seconded by Lycoming County to continue to hold the championship as a two-day trial.
 - 2. October 3-4, 2015** (40th weekend on the AKC calendar) All-Age Championship will be held on the grounds of the Lykens Valley Beagle Club.
 - 3. Nomination of Beagle Advisory Committee Representative.** The delegates nominated Dr. John Cable, Jeff Sherman, and Dave Shearer. Motion to close nominations was made by Sharpsville and seconded by Director Jim Roush. These three names will be submitted to the AKC.

- 4. Nomination of 2016 AKC SPO National Championship Judges.** The delegates compiled a list of judge nominees for the AKC SPO National Championships. The following were top vote getters: John Cable, Greg Ritter, Mike Johnson, and Josh Rissinger.
 - 5. Election of PBGF Derby Championship Judges.** The delegates compiled a list of judge nominees for the 2015 PBGF Derby Championships. The following were top vote getters: West – Matt Minnick, Stephanie Elick, Greg Ritter, and Ed Henry; East – Brent Reed, Mark Malloy, Ian Hannis, and Josh Rissinger; Show Judge – Tom Shannon
- d. Consistency Award Winners 2014.** Jim Kazmarek, Dave Sharer, Sara Sharer collaborated on reporting the hounds and individuals that will be honored at this evening's banquet.

VI. New Business

- a. Purina Youth Initiative:** Mark Malloy reported on the status of the America's Junior Handler Program. If anyone needs a puppy for a junior handler, please contact Mark. If it is for someone outside the federation, Mark will put the junior handler in touch with the contact person in his/her area. Mike Luchetta added that at the Large Pack Nationals, a junior handler won the 15" Male Class.
- b. 2014 – 2015 Raffle Review.** Dave Sharer reported that nearly all tickets are accounted for thanks to returns made prior to today's meeting. For next year, Dave asked the delegates if they preferred another gun ticket or would they rather switch to a money raffle. Motion by Rainbow, seconded by Stein's Hollow to switch to a money ticket. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Good of the Association.** Jim Knight put up a display showing newly elected Hall of Fame member, Matt Minnick, throughout the years of his beagling career. The 2014 Houndsperson of the Year will be awarded posthumously to Andy Purnell. Motion made by Towanda, seconded by Oil Creek to make a \$1,000 contribution to Andy's widow, Lisa, for his lifetime of support to beagling, financial and otherwise. A number of clubs also pledged financial support. Motion passed unanimously. Subsequent motion made by Monroe and seconded by Oil Creek to name the 2015 Derby Championship the John Roland Memorial Trial and the 2015 All-Age Championship the Andy Purnell Memorial Trial. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 3:50 by Towanda, seconded by Director Sherman.