

# **PBGF Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

**Zafar's Grotto, South Williamsport, PA**

**Delegates in Attendance:** Beechton, Carlisle, Conemaugh Valley, Eldred, Hilltop, Indiana, Jacobus, Lycoming County, Lykens Valley, Northern Lancaster, Oil Creek, Rainbow, Shamokin, Steins Hollow, Susquehanna, Towanda, Tunkhannock, Webster, West Branch

- I. **Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order by Josh Rissinger at 11:00 AM and opened with prayer by Eric Mahon
- II. **Approval of Minutes-** Minutes were emailed out in advance of this meeting and will be transitioned to Brian Phillips.
- III. **Introduction of Guests-** Mike Luchetta, representing Purina, informed the Federation that Eddie Wiley is no longer with Purina. Clubs will need to contact Hounds and Hunting for Purina Points Coupons. Results of Purina Points Trials will need to be made within (14) days to Hounds and Hunting. Clubs that are in violation will not be able to host a Purina Points Trial in the following year. Mike also emphasized the importance of submitting your Purina weight circles to Purina in small batches (not bulking together and sending at once). Purina reviews the incoming weight circles on a periodic basis and budgets based on regional activity.
- IV. **Officer's and Director's Reports**
  - A. **President-** Josh Rissinger is the new President and thanked Jim for his contributions and looks forward to working with the Federation.
  - B. **Eastern Vice President-** Jeremy Bowles is replacing Jim Girafalco and looks forward to working with the Federation.
  - C. **Western Vice President-** Jim Kazmarek spoke of the importance of Directory updates. When clubs hold elections and there are changes, please contact Jim Kazmarek and he will work with Claire Spettel to update the Directory and Website accordingly.
  - D. **Treasurer's Report-** Dave Sharer gave a detailed treasurer's report: Opening Balance \$5,706.66 & Ending Balance of \$9,725.90. A motion was made by Joe Kaschak (Tunkhannock), seconded by Stan Breon (West Branch) to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion passed unanimously.
  - E. **Secretary-** Brian Phillips is replacing Grace Roland and looks forward to helping the Federation.

V. **Committee Reports**

- A. **Treasurer's Annual Audit Committee-** Barbara Kazmarek and Karen Girafalco have reviewed the Treasury transactions and have approved their accuracy and completeness.
- B. **Hall of Fame-** Two hounds were inducted into the PBGF Hall of Fame: FC Shoreline Ellie and FC Willies Double Copper Penny.
- C. **By-Law Committee-**
  - a. Amendment to Article #13 Section 1: Changing requirement from club/delegate attendance at Federation Meetings from 2 to 1 meeting annually. This amendment passed unanimously, 19 to none.
  - b. **Political Awareness Committee-** Josh Rissinger and Mark Malloy brought to the attention of the Federation the importance of Political Awareness, and more specifically leveraging Toby Fauver's background in Government work and his passion for the interest of hounds men and women. Stan Breon (West Branch) made a motion to move forward, Mark Malloy (Carlisle) seconded, and all were in favor of the formation of an official Political Awareness Committee headed by Toby Fauver. Toby will be working with leadership in the Federation to ensure we have collective views on issues at hand.

VI. **Old Business**

- A. **2017 Championship Trials-** Derby trial to be held June 17-18 at Central Beagle Club. The All-Age Championship Trial will be held October 7-8 at Lycoming County Beagle Club. Delegates were asked to submit their nominations for judges and appointments will be assigned with the publication of minutes.
- B. **2018 AKC National SPO Judge Selection-** Judge nominations will be done at the October All-Age Championship Trial.
- C. **Annual Raffle Fundraising-** Dave Sharer detailed that the current ticket requires each club to sell 31 tickets at \$5 per ticket. The event raises \$2,500.00 annually. Jim Kazmarek asked if all tickets are typically sold?. Dave Sharer confirmed that all tickets have been sold for the last 2 years. Barbara Kazmarek (Hilltop) made motion to continue with the current Raffle, Steve Phillips (Rainbow) seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

VII. **New Business**

- A. **Purina weight circles-** Jim Kazmarek echoed the importance of sending in weight circles to Purina. It was explained that Purina looks at weight circle activity regionally and applies budget endorsements accordingly. Also, Jim explained that oftentimes the Purina coupons are actually checks, and in some cases can be cashed/deposited into your bank account.
- B. **Non-Profit Status Update-** Dave Sharer and Jim Kazmarek explained that our tax filing status is currently a C-7 and as a result, we do not qualify for certain grants from major retailers (Wal-Mart, K-Mart, etc.) In order to be eligible for these grants, we need to be classified as a C-3. A C-3 organization must be able to support their status through community involvement. The Federation is trying to prove that efforts such as Youth Hunt Programs, Club Rabies Clinics, and Junior Handler Programs to mention a few are grounds for the C-3

filing status. Upon researching the steps in order to qualify as a C-3 organization, a \$400.00 non-returnable application fee with the IRS is necessary. The application typically takes 180 days to be reviewed by the IRS. If the application is “bounced” for any reason, another \$400.00 application fee is required. Breakneck Beagle Club has generously agreed to let the PBGF use their CPA and Lawyer to perform this work (meeting with Dave Sharer and Jim Kazmarek), as well as cover expenses to obtain the C-3 filing status. The benefit for the sponsoring organization such as Wal-Mart, is a tax write-off. It is believed that a C-3 filing status is a one-time deal. More to come on this topic as the efforts progress. Taylor Lewis mentioned that Breakneck Beagle Club’s generosity should be acknowledged and appreciation will be extended by the PBGF.

- C. **Banquet (2018)**- Dave Sharer confirmed with the membership that we will maintain the same weekend and location (Zafar’s Grotto). January 7, 2018
- D. **PA Game Commission Meeting**- PA Game Commission Meeting will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jim Katchko for details.
- E. **Article 13, Section 1: Potential Amendment**- Josh Rissinger discussed the possible update of By-Laws for clubs that do not meet the attendance requirement of 1 trial per year. The proposed update would be for the club to lose Federation voting rights for the following year, instead of the current penalties of fines and expulsion. This amendment would remove the last (2) sentences from the By-Laws “Any club in violation will be penalized by not being allowed to hold PBGF Qualifying Trials the following year. A second suspension will lead to expulsion of the club from the Federation.” Mark Malloy (Carlisle) made motion, Craig Chelednik (Conemaugh Valley) seconded the amendment. Amendment will be added to June Meeting Agenda.
- F. **Article 2, Section 1: Required Amendment**- It was brought to our attention by Jim Katchko that there was a missed language update in the by-laws when it was approved to open up the Pennsylvania borders to offer membership to clubs outside of the state. Mark Malloy (Carlisle) made a motion, Jim Roush (Webster) seconded. Amendment will be added to June Meeting Agenda.
- G. **PBGF All-Age Trial – AKC Licensed Trial**- Josh Rissinger suggested we discuss the benefit of converting to an AKC Licensed Trial. Dave Sharer expressed concern with the trial’s mobility and AKC rules on 100 mile radius and no competitive overlaps. Mark Malloy expressed that these trials are typically held as a “Special Event” and AKC may have separate rules for these circumstances. Ken Hakes voiced concerns about Field Champion eligibility requirements. Taylor Lewis (Lykens Valley) made a motion that the PBGF Championship Trail be a licensed Trial, hounds have to be qualified, and all Field Champions are automatically qualified. Kyle Camerer (Lycoming County) seconded- 2 For and 11 opposed by delegates. Stan Breon (West Branch) withdrew motion as everything stays “as is”.

#### VIII. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made at 2:30 PM by Stan Breon (West Branch) and seconded by Craig Chelednik (Conemaugh Valley)