

The National Amateur Championship Delegates Meeting was held Sunday, December 6, 2009, at the Holiday Inn, Carbondale, IL. General Chair Dean Reinke called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Roll call was taken. 56 clubs paid their dues; 53 clubs were represented.

The 2008 minutes have been posted on essft.com for most of 2009. A motion to accept the minutes was made, 2nd, and passed.

The 2008 treasures report has also been posted on essft.com for most of 2009. A motion to accept the treasurers report was made, 2nd, and passed.

The nomination committee presented the following nominations. A motion to accept the nominations was made, 2nd and passed.

2010 Mike Wallace
2011 Bill Willett
2012 Bob Child
2010 Patricia Bramwell, Sec/Treas

The 2010 judges were announced – Tom Menzel and George Kittle

A motion was made to keep the 2010 membership dues at \$75. It was 2nd, and passed.

A motion was made to keep the 2010 qualifications at 2 points. It was 2nd, and passed.

A motion was made to have the 2010 closing date 16 days before the start date which would be November 22. Mike Wallace asked that we come back to this after his presentation.

Mike Wallace, 2010 General Chair Elect presented his presentation. Mike suggested we begin Wednesday, December 8. We cannot start any earlier due to deer season. Mike said we could start on the 13th but we could have rough weather and the holidays.

Mike said the delegates meeting would be December 7 at 4 p.m. followed by the ProPlan welcome party.

Jeff Brooks will be the FT Chairman with Jason Green as the Co-Chairman. Gun Captain will be Ed Faraci; Tom Snyder grounds Chairman. Headquarters is the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge, MD, which is 50 miles from the coast and they are happy to have us in December! Parking for campers will be available; there is a Starbucks inside the Resort; dogs will be allowed on the 1st floor with outside entrances; the rate is \$100 for a double room. Birds will be provided by Blue Mountain Game Farm.

1st and 2nd series will be at the Anatidea Farm. It is a 450 acre natural cover with ponds. 3rd and 4th series will be at Libby Nagel's. It is a 400 acre CRP – a bit more challenging. 5th series will be on 200 acres and 40 flags. Bruce Kephart will be bird planter; Bev Matthews Head Field Marshall and Barb Granatir in charge of trophies.

A motion was made to hold the 2010 National starting on December 8, 2010 and approve the grounds. It was 2nd, and passed.

Steve Beyer, Hall of Fame Nomination Chair, along with seven other members, nominated Kerm Gillund to serve a three year term to replace Don Brunn. It was 2nd, and passed.

Connie Kieckhefer inquired about the straw vote from last year in reference to the professionals judging their clients. This has been approved by AKC and will be printed in the next AKC Rules booklet. A client cannot judge his pro trainer either. This will become effective January 2, 2010.

Peter Renwick presented his committee report o change in the way judges are selected. The committee consisted of Bob Child, Tim Edwards, Larry Franchovich, Mhari Peschel, Skip Smith and Mike Wallace.

The committee went back to 2002 for their facts. These facts were passed out at this meeting and they were put on essft.com early in the year, plus sent out to each club.

General Chair Reinke asked for comments from the committee. Tim Edwards noted that one of the suggestions was the final five candidates submit a bio of themselves. A motion was made to accept this proposal. It was 2nd. Cindy Williams made an amendment that the final participants would have the opportunity to submit a bio for posting on the internet. The motion was 2nd. A vote was taken – 36 were in favor and 8 opposed.

Bob Montler discussed the concept of voting for 4 judges in the first rounds. He didn't think we should have to vote for 4 if we didn't think there were four candidates we would like to choose. He did not feel that discussion of the candidates is a negative thing.

John Hall noted that this issue was also discussed at the National Open. He feels we should leave the "vote for four" language.

John Halpin suggested that to avoid the concept of campaigning perhaps bios should be distributed by the secretary with the ballot.

Bob Montler suggested perhaps a questionnaire would be better than a bio.

Connie Kieckhefer asked what questions were asked of the potential judges. Sec Bramwell reiterated what was asked and needed to be affirmed by the potential judges.

There was much more discussion regarding questionnaires vs bio. General Chair Reinke suggested the committee come up with questions to be included in a questionnaire.

Kevin Rutherford stated we already have qualifications, why do we need to have a questionnaire – we are going to vote for who we know and like.

Don Bramwell prefers we be able to vote for "up to four". (See Mark Haglin's comments). Don moved that we change the language to read "Vote for up to four candidates."

Dean Koehler was concerned that this does nothing to alleviate the concept of organized voting blocks. Jess Sekey noted that this could be skewing the votes. Bob Montler asked that the voters be allowed to vote for the people they think are the most qualified.

Committee Member Skip Smith noted that the committee did not really screen the judges. They applied different criteria to the 2009 list to determine its effect on the list.

Suzanne Smith asked if the committee had done any analysis on the impact of only electing "up to four" had been done. Committee Head Renwick said the committee had not done that.

Mark Haglin said we also need to amend the language regarding the ballots to read "will not be accepted without four selections."

John Hal asked if it had always been "must vote for four". Secretary Bramwell said yes.

A vote was asked that we vote in favor of "Vote for up to four candidates". 20 voted in favor and 30 voted against. The amendment failed.

A vote was asked for the proposal with the bio amendment. This motion was 2nd and passed.

Peter Renwick presented a proposal from the Mid-West Interclub. A sponsor would like to provide a trophy for the High Point MidWest Interclub Amateur. The Northeast Wisconsin club would be the sponsoring club.

Don Bramwell did not think this was a national trophy and it should be handled at the interclub level. Connie Kieckhefer believes the points would be consistent with the current high point calculations. Deb Schoene made a motion we do this trophy as presented. It was 2nd and defeated.

General Chair Reinke gave information regarding the trial.

Peter Renwick suggested a committee should be formed to look at the judge's qualifications sine this was not part of the purview of the previous committee. GC Reinke suggested the same committee carry on with this task. Anyone else interested in joining the committee should contact Peter.

Russ Smith requested a callback board in the headquarters lobby.

Bob Mueller suggested we should attempt to keep the amateur "pure" with perhaps some restrictions on how recently a pro could be training a dog entered in the National Amateur. This is just his thought and no motion was made.

A motion was made, 2nd and passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Patricia Bramwell
NAC Secretary