

Bracco Italiano club of America Open Membership Meeting

October 10th 2022 called to Order 7:35pm EST

Attendees: Amanda Inman, Jennifer Caban, Bobbi Benson, Tom Harper, Gary Lewis, Jesse Freese, Lisa Moller, Marilyn Vinson, Jason and Jennifer Taylor

Report of Treasurer: John is absent but Jennifer can report that the account balance is currently \$23,861.65 with no major activity recently

Committee reports:

National specialty planning committee: Bobbi reports that they are working on the schedule and getting it to a 4 day week Tuesday- Friday. They are beginning on a Tuesday to hopefully allow attendees to travel and not interfere with Easter Sunday. Jennifer has sent out a survey to the membership for the AKC judges for the parent club specialty to be held. Jennifer will send a reminder of that survey with the deadline of midnight eastern Wednesday October 12th. Jennifer will follow up with AKC regarding the club's status as a member club in order to move forward with hosting point's events.

Jesse asked about the event being all weekdays- the intent is to allow for Easter and then travel home on a weekend.

Rescue committee: Deanna reported via email that there have been no dogs to come through rescue with the club recently. She is available to help and assist in the guidelines if anyone needs help if/when a dog needs rescuing.

Hunting committee: Gary reports that most of the committee is out hunting now that seasons are open. He will try to share some dates of upcoming hunt test in the different venues. Also the gathering to be hosted by Deb Pieriera in the Northeast will have hunt tests in the same timeframe and they can be rolled into the event plan for anyone interested.

Bella Bravo committee- It was asked what the status of the Bella Bravo award is and if it will be done at the upcoming 2023 Nationals. The main criteria is having the Italian judge- Gary asked if it was confirmed that Sr. Manfroni will be in attendance- the answer was YES. Amanda asked if it would be beneficial for both the Bella Bravo and Specialty committees to meet to discuss together. Jesse asked if it might be worth polling the membership since not everyone was pro-AKC. The award is based on an Italian judging both conformation and field evaluations so if both of those are going to be in the schedule then they will have a basic structure prepared for the Bella Bravo to be awarded. They need to complete a points matrix for the award. If there is not an Italian judge then it would not be awarded it is based on the National event, not a yearlong set of criteria. They hope to work out a matrix for another year long award. There is concern if Manfroni can spend an entire day in the field- due to health- this is something the planning committee needs to discuss and perhaps ask him what he prefers to do. Having an Italian hunt evaluation is very important to many members.

Health committee: At this time Amanda doesn't have much to report but if there are topics of interest please make suggestions to Amanda and we can try to have a seminar.

Judges education committee: Nothing major going on from this committee currently. Amanda will be doing a seminar in Orlando in December in conjunction with the Royal Canin event.

International committee: Allison not in attendance so nothing to report on the call

Old business not addressed: None Raised

New business not on the agenda:

Marilyn Vinson asked how much money is in the rescue fund. John is not on the call, Jennifer will check with him afterwards and include in notes for membership. Marilyn stated we need a procedures guideline on the club website on how a dog qualifies as a club rescue. Jennifer will pull the information previously sent to the board from Deanna and post an "intake" guideline on the website. We also need to determine criteria and a list of approved fosters within the membership and criteria for non-club member fosters. Jennifer will work with Deanna on this and will set an expected timeline of two weeks to get this completed. Post call note- John has stated the amount in the BICA banking set aside for rescue is currently \$3,501.81

Marilyn Vinson asked about the nomination committee and who they have put up for the elections- Jennifer stated that Missy Bettis had been the only member to volunteer to assist and was able to recruit other committee members and they had until the 15th to report back. Jennifer will then send those choices out and open the floor to nomination per the timeline laid out in the bylaws. Marilyn asked that each candidate, even if currently serving, provide a "resume" to the membership to include information about the committees they serve on, meeting attendance etc. Jennifer will request those once Missy reports back.

Marilyn Vinson brought up that she was at a delegate's meeting about a month ago and it was brought up that the Bracco club fired their judge for their National specialty and how incredibly embarrassing this was. She said it was the first time in 138 years this has happened and it looks so bad for the Bracco club's reputation. The board stated that this decision was not taken lightly and directly correlated with a formal complaint filed to the board with allegations of improper conduct between both a judge at the AKC show in Oklahoma and the judge who was slated to judge nationals and an exhibitor/ club member showing at that event. The decision of the board was that there was not enough first hand input on the complaint to file any action against the member but in order to prevent further accusations of influence the board felt it was the best option to remove the judge and select a new panel for membership vote.

Meeting adjourned 8:53pm EST