

Bracco Italiano Club of America General Membership Meeting

DATE: Monday January 16th, 2023

7:30pm eastern

Called to order 7:35pm

Start of meeting/welcome: President Amanda Inman:

Welcome to our new board member David Hayek joining us this month following the 2022 election period. We look forward to working with David and extend our gratitude to Jeff Lemmenes for his services to the board of BICA.

Report of Treasurer: John Kavalier

- a. **Club financials report-** The account balance is currently \$23,782.39 continuing to be in a strong position. We are in a good balance as we move into the planning of the National Specialty and upcoming expenses to be incurred.
Marilyn Vinson asked if the membership gets a detailed report of expenditures. John stated we can have that put in the quarterly newsletter or we can post to the members only section of the website. Jennifer and John will work together to get that information published.

Committees Reports

- **National Specialty Planning Committee-** David Hayek reports that the conformation shows have been submitted to AKC. The AKC Hunt test has also been submitted to the performance events department. They are manually reviewing everything since we are a new club and will hopefully have everything approved this week. Once the events and judges are finalized as approved the premium list should be able to be released soon after, hoping for the end of the month. The planning team is targeting February 1st to open registrations. There will be 4 ½ days of events. April 10th -15th 2023 in Brainard NE at Oak Creek Sporting Club.
Bobbi wants to put out a request for volunteers for the Hunt Test, field marshals bird planters, gunners. Anyone willing to help can contact Bobbi. Gary will also send out an email to the hunting committee seeking volunteers. The hunt test will be open to all breeds so once the premiums come out members will be encouraged to enter early before it is open to other breeds.
Allison mentioned there will also be a need for volunteers in other areas such as registrations, fun events etc. There will be a merchandise store set up online. Items can be delivered to the event or shipped directly after the event is over. Jody Kirtley will be reaching out for trophy sponsors as well.
- **Rescue Committee-** There have been 2 dogs recently in need or rehoming, although both were acted upon privately and not in need of the club rescue. One was rehomed by the breeder in TX, and the other was in TN and Amanda Inman personally went to rescue her however she had to be humanely euthanized due to a health crisis on the day of transport. She was an older dog and succumbed to a bloat. We have several new people interested in becoming fosters and potential

adopters. If anyone wishes to assist in rescue they can reach out to Amanda or Deanna to be added as resources. Anyone wishing to make donations to rescue can also do so through the club-please contact Jennifer for options. Thank you for recent contributions from Peggy Casper, John Callaci and Jennifer Caban.

- **Hunting Committee** – The hunting mentor list is on the club website. Gary reports that this resource does seem to be helping and folks are reaching out and meeting up with others in their areas to either hunt together or to learn how to start a dog in hunting. Anyone who wishes to be added to the list can contact Jennifer (club Secretary) or Gray Lewis.
- **Health Committee**- Amanda stated there aren't too many big updates at this time. She is still working with the University of Florida for kidney disease markers. David Hayek asked if she would be doing blood draws at nationals. She is still working on that but at this time the funding might not be there through UF, the other option would be owners would have to pay to participate but that means logistically a local veterinarian would have to do the draws and ship to UF. David felt members might still be interested in this option and we could coordinate with a local vet if this is the only option. Amanda will keep working on it and let the committee know.
- **Judges Education Committee**- The last big presentation was done at the AKC Nationals in Orlando, FL. Amanda has been asked by AKC to do a webinar on February 7th to hopefully allow more judges to attend. This of course will not have the hands on but is a way to reach a broader audience. Allison Schultz mentioned that she has heard feedback from judges that our presentations are very informative and well run, they would like to see more of them in the future. Marilyn Vinson asked if we could get eh Judges Education club approved mentor list by region up on the website. This will allow interested judges to reach out to the folks in their area and be proactive in seeking mentorships. Jennifer will work to get this completed.
- **International Committee**- Allison Schultz reports the 3-year SABI gathering will take place this year September 8-10 in Tuscany Italy. They produce a very nice annual for the members of SABI- would be a good reason to join SABI to be able to get one of those books.
David is working to have the national show be a CRUFTS qualifier for next year, if the dog is eligible.

Any Old business not addressed- None Raised

Any new business- Allison mentioned that we are now a licensed club with AKC, but until we become an affiliated club, we do not get a delegate. We need to look into the additional processes required to be affiliated and have a delegate.

Marilyn Vinson stated she was in Orlando and stated that all of the dogs were well presented and deserving. The people all represented themselves and the dogs and there was a lot of positive mention of the hunting aspect in any interviews. Most of the dogs in the ring were in fact hunting and show dogs. It was a shame to see posts on Facebook after the event driving a wedge between the show and hunting. The members need to do better to support those that are out there doing both and representing the breed. We should not be driving the wedge now within ourselves of Feathers before Ribbons, it should be Feathers and Ribbons. If we don't support each other now we will drive a separation into the breed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm EST