

Bracco Italiano Club of America Board Meeting

Monday November 8th, 2021 7:30 EST

Attendees: Jennifer Caban, Amanda Inman, Gary Lewis, Jeff Lemmenes, John Kavalier, Lisa Moller, Bobbi Benson

Called to order 7:36pm

- 1) Report of Treasurer- John Kavalier- Balance in the club account is \$24,116.58. Activity in the report is from membership dues deposits. The PayPal transfer was from dues provided to Jennifer. There was a \$142.56 charge to Wix this is website fees.
- 2) Membership Renewals and Payment Options- Gary Lewis wanted to discuss while fresh in our minds. Gary would like to see if offering PayPal to all members as a way to renewal vs having to send a check would be an option. He feels people would do it more readily and hopefully cut down on late membership renewals which require board approval. We can look into setting up a link on the website for PayPal payments and can hopefully have options built out for each of the membership dues options. Will also look at Venmo as an option for payments. Currently we accept PayPal through Jennifer's account and Jennifer mentioned she will look into setting up the club's own account rather than using hers if we add this as an online option. Lisa and Gary both felt this could also cut down on the postage used to mail renewals notices and we could move to using email notifications. Gary also mentioned we need to have a clear statement in the renewals that if not paid on time they could fall back to associate membership (non-voting member).

Jennifer mentioned that there are several items that have been requested through the website, such as renewals, online show entries, possible merchandise all of which could be accomplished if we set up online payment options. Jennifer stated we need to hire a website developer or manager in order to do this Jennifer doesn't have the skill set to manage all of that website design. Amanda will ask Logan if he has any suggestions since he is in the technology field.

- 3) Report of Nationals Planning-Lisa spoke with Oak Creek Hunt club (in NE) they are available to host our event the last week of June-first of July. These dates would allow for championship points to be earned in the show(s). The club has a large grassy area to hold an outdoor show as well as connections to tenting companies locally. There are also a few local community centers that may allow us to use their space if we need an indoor show(s). Oak Creek doesn't feel they will have a problem securing birds for those dates as long as BICA can let them know approximate numbers In January-February. Lisa will check on cost of birds, they suggested using Chukar. Jeff mentioned average cost for birds is about \$9.00 for chukar and \$6.50 for quail. Jeff mentioned traditionally quail are used in AKC hunt tests but it isn't against any rules to use chukar if that is stated in the premiums. The club has three members who are AKC hunt test judges and may be willing to judge our event, Chad Phillips and Don &

Pam Bergmeier (not sure on spelling). Lisa reached out to the Mahers to see if they would be available to chair the event but they are not.

The guys at Oka Creek stated the weather in June can vary but can range from 50s to 80s. They can set up multiple watering stations etc. to help with hot dogs in the field. There is also a pond on site that dogs can take a swim.

Meals can be catered onsite by Oak Creek. Breakfast and lunch \$8.00 and dinners \$25.

They have skeet, clay and trap set up if we want to do that as well. Pricing on clays was 100 clays for \$38, and trap/skeet is \$7.50 for 25 targets.

The facility has 8 camper hook ups onsite and 2 farm houses for rent with kennels for dogs.

Those start at \$150 night for 4 bedrooms.

Jennifer asked what the cost of the facility use will be to the club. Lisa stated he did not give her a price and he (Oak Creek) said throw him a number and let's see what we think. Lisa asked what our cost was in Pine City, Jennifer stated the use of the facility was donated in connection with Lance Olsen's membership there. John mentioned Iowa that Brownell's also donated the use of their grounds and we hosted different events at local restaurants as well. In St. Louis there was a fee to use the facilities but we didn't have that number on hand during the meeting. Lisa wants to see what the cost of membership is at the club and perhaps having 1-2 new members join Oak Creek might allow us to use the facility. It is also good promotion for the club. Lisa will follow up on this part.

Jennifer asked if the board was comfortable with the shift in event dates and any concerns over the heat for hunting/tests this time of year. The board felt like membership preferred the event to be held after full status recognition and agrees to these dates but feels it needs to be for 2022 only with the timing of the National Specialty moving back to April/May in future years. Jennifer also asked if we were building the specialty around the AKC regardless of availability of Italians. The board again feels like this year is being dictated by AKC recognition but wants to try to include the Italian judges as well. The planning committee will reach out to Mr. Manfroni to determine availability and interest in judging and will consider other judges as necessary. The committee will continue to move forward with their planning processes.

- 4) Upcoming elections- so far there are no nominations outside of the current board members. The membership has until Monday November 15th to nominate someone. If we get any nominations we will need to have an outside company to do the votes. We need to determine who that will be if needed, and have this in mind for future elections as well.
- 5) AKC Canine College development- The AKC will be filming at the Nationals in Orlando, FL in December. They need at least 4-6 dogs and 1-2 breed experts to film. Amanda Inman will be available to do an interview as a breed expert. Jennifer will send an email to members to determine who is attending and potentially available to be filmed. There are also opportunities in CA and CO coming up in January and February so Jennifer will see if any members are planning to attend those shows as well.

No old business not addressed, no new business raised. Meeting adjourned 8:36pm