

## **Bracco Italiano Club of America Board Meeting**

**Monday May 9th, 2022 7:30 EST**

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

1. Report of Treasurer - John Kavalier- The account currently has \$23,005.58.
2. Bylaws Review Process- The bylaws have been reviewed by the board per the suggested outlines from AKC. Jennifer has the bylaws in a format showing strikethrough of text to be removed and highlighted revision text. Jennifer will get this out to the membership within a week along with a survey monkey for a vote on the revisions. Having a 2/3 vote in favor of the revisions is necessary for it to pass and for BICA to move forward with being an approved member club with AKC which would allow us to host our own events, such as conformation at nationals and hunt tests etc.
3. Bella Bravo Award- Need to set a committee to form a standard of how this is awarded each time- has there been any further reach out to those who volunteered? Gary has reached out to those who were suggested for the committee. The committee will consist of Gary Lewis, Valerie Kessler, Ericka Dennis, Courtney Bastian and Kim Caudill. The goal is to have a standard for how the club awards Bella Bravo moving forward. Hopefully the committee can get something together before the 2023 national event. Gary mentioned it may be a bit of a work in progress and may need to be tweaked until perfected. Lisa asked if this committee information had been communicated to David Hayek as the National Planning chair, it has not but Gary will communicate with him. This keeps David in the loop on the award to be presented at 2023 Nationals. It was also asked if the committee might look at this being an award that would be earned over a year's worth of accomplishments rather than just at nationals. Several liked this idea and suggested looking at how a few other national parent clubs do their annual awards. Would like to look at possibly adding more awards for nationals. Jennifer had a points system from when BISA did events and awards were presented based on yearlong accomplishments and lifetime accomplishments- Jennifer will share that document with the board to see if they want to use it as a base to create something similar.
4. AKC Canine College- Discuss possibility of using Manfroni as a breed expert and what is required to do that- any further movement in the process? Amanda will reach out to Manfroni to determine if he is willing to do the interview. John K will also reach back out to his connection (Dr. Ivaldi) to see if they have any suggestions within SABI to do an interview- finding a candidate who speaks English is ideal. Amanda is also working with some sources in Europe to get photos and videos of structure and movement to include in the canine college.

5. AKC Delegate discussion- item tabled from last call- we need to determine who our potential candidates are as an AKC Delegate- still need to look into this. Lisa stated it needs to be someone with a strong working knowledge of AKC and their systems and also someone who can work within the politics of AKC. The candidate should be our voice for the breed, so someone versed in conformation and hunting as well as other aspects of the events is the best person for the job. Also needs to be someone willing to put in the time and commitment to travel to the meetings etc. Lisa suggested Marilyn Vinson for the position. Gary asked if there is a timeframe for when we need to have the delegate selected. No specific timeline has been dictated but the sooner we can the better once in full status. Jennifer will send out an email for feelers to see if we have any members who might be interested in the position and ask them for a short paragraph "resume". The board will then consider any candidates and vote on the delegate.
  
6. National Specialty- The team has several of the chair positions filled. They are starting to get better turn out for help and attendance on the planning calls. They have chairs for the show, ribbons/trophies, merchandise, health. Gary asked if there was anything they needed from the board at this time. Lisa mentioned that the committee was still waiting for a final answer from the board on bringing Bitte over for the event. The concern is the expense of 3 people being flown over and their stay meals etc. The last communication the board made back to David was suggesting that they approach Manfroni to see if he would be willing to come judge and Bitte translate for him. David will approach him with this suggestion. It was asked if Manfroni has committed yet to coming over? There has not yet been a solid commitment from him to David. Bobbi mentioned there was an offer to assist in covering some of Bitte's expenses to come over from a member. Allison has offered to pay her stay expenses if she comes. Right now, the flight costs are an estimate because the timing is still far out, but they range from \$800-\$1000 per person. The board asked for a more exact answer on how much cost was offered up to be offset. The committee was also looking to approach another all-breed club who had a show that following weekend to see if they might be interested in using Bitte as a judge which could further offset expenses, but they didn't want to do that until we had decided to use her or not.  
They are also looking for someone to chair the hunt test committee for nationals. Need someone with the paperwork side of things experience. Also, would like to do the intro to bird clinics again maybe 2 times this year depending on interest. Lisa asked Gary if he would be willing to chair the hunting and bird clinic items, he stated that he was concerned he couldn't be off work for the full time and was therefore hesitant to agree to chair the committee. He will help with some of the planning processes but can't commit to chair at this time.  
Lisa asked Amanda if she is willing to chair the health clinics and talks for the event- she said yes, she would. Lisa also mentioned possibly reaching out to Dr. Tintel who is an expert in amyloidosis in shar pei to see if she would be willing to give a talk. Lisa will reach out to her to see if she's interested and available. Lisa also asked if there would be any option to offer flight costs for her. The board stated it would be nice to have her talk but adding another flight into the expenses might be more than the club needs to put into the event. We really need to watch expenses vs possible income for the event to try not to go in the hole too much (if at all). Lisa will see if she's even interested or available before we broach the cost aspect. It might also be possible for her to do a virtual talk.

7. Fall elections- need to start looking at who we want for the nomination committee as well as independent firm to do the vote if necessary. The board will look at membership list and make suggestions for a nominating committee. Trying to get this set up early so we aren't behind the ball when the time comes. This year's elections the positions up for nomination are Vice President, Secretary, and Board slot #1 (currently held by Jeff L.)
8. Hunting Committee- Has there been anything scheduled to get this committee up and meeting, or at least 1 meeting to discuss action items? Gary asked Jennifer to send a list of all who had agreed to be on hunting committee, and he will get an email chain or conference call set up to get some forward movement for this committee. Would like to have the hunting aspect of the breed prevalent on social media and the BICA website, especially now as we move into full status so that newcomers see that aspect as very important to owning a Bracco.
9. Bracco Bash in MN- any further action/expenses discussed that the board needs to discuss or are they keeping it a privately funded event? Amanda will check with Michael as to what support they were requesting beside using the club logo. Post call Amanda did get a reply that they are not asking for financial support, just to use the logo a banner if the club has one and to hopefully have the event be covered by the club's insurance. All of these requests are easily supported. Jennifer will also look at her house this weekend and probably has some ribbons etc. that can be used if they want.

Anything else we need to discuss? Lisa mentioned she has a few judges' education seminars in the works and will keep the club informed of those events as they develop and will see if we can include dogs regionally as those events take place.

Meeting adjourned 9:09 pm Est