President Mark Haglin called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll call and sign-in followed.

Present: Mark Haglin, David Sanford, Peggy Presnall, Kathy Nestor, Barb Granatir, Susan Burgess, Sue Ellen Healy, Bev Sigl Felten, Elaine Vanderslice, David Hopkins, Mike Pollack, Bob Beauchamp, Amy Rogers, Carol Jansen, Randy Capsel, Jan Johnson, Larry Schwartz, Holly Boggess, Kathy Patiegnani, Don Mock, Laurel Fagg, Ray Ritchotte, Terri Bounty, Debbie Trueblood.

Since there was not a quorum present, President Mark Haglin advised the group that the focus would be on committee reports. He also reported that there would be a quorum of Governors for the Governor's meeting which would be held immediately after the Membership Meeting on April 28, 2018.

Minutes of Last Meeting
Barb presented the 2017 ESSFTA Meeting Minutes which was held in Collierville, TN and posted on Announce and the ESSFTA website. No changes to the meeting minutes were required and the minutes were accepted.

Officer Reports

Message from the President:
First a thank you to Sue Burgess for organizing this year's annual meeting logistics in hotel, rooms, meals etc. The ESSFTA had a productive year since our last annual meeting in Tennessee. Having some time to spend at the National Bird Dog Foundation and the Bird Dog Hall of Fame was an eye-opening visit for many. I have been there numerous times and each time there is something new, something noticed, and something appreciated. The longer one is in the game, the more important that history brought alive at the Hall of Fame is special to us bird dog people and especially our spaniel world. Make a visit there when you can. Our archives committee works tirelessly throughout the year in updating the springer wing.

Bench: The National Bench Specialty in Washington was pulled off without a hitch. Thanks to Peggy and Sue Ellen and all involved for making that event something special for so many folks on our bench side.

On a sad note, we lost a special springer fancier in the passing of Erin Kerfoot’s father recently. Our condolences to Erin and her family. Erin’s father was quite active in the bench side of raising and showing springer spaniels.

Field: The National Amateur was held in Utah this past fall. An active group under the guidance of Gary Riddle and Bob Child and Jan Johnson put together a good trial. I certainly appreciate the dedication from our members regarding the amount of time and coordination it takes to run these national events. Dan Lussen and committee handled the Parent Club Field trial in New York again.

John Meyer and Mike Wallace and the Tennessee Springer club hosted the Hall of Fame trials this past February. The number of entry’s this year was back to one of the highest numbers since the inception of the HOF trials. Except for the major water depth in the field it all went well.

General parent club business: A couple bigger undertakings during the past year are works in progress.
1. We are continuing to work on the new website and will have discussions on that during our meeting today with determining a direction and progress update.
2. Another issue is membership communication. Working with Club Express, Word Press, ESSFTA.org, ESSFT.com and getting it more seamless in renewing membership, tracking lists, updating lists and dissemination of information and informing folks about the activities and events surrounding the springer spaniel world.
3. And a big highlight for me has been the tick-borne initiative of which the Parent Club was a major donor. I’ve had the pleasure to work with Dr. Christy Peterson this spring at both the Nebraska field trial and recently the Northern Minnesota trial in the collection of blood samples from over 120 dogs. Dr. Peterson is compiling data and we will publish the results as she puts it together. Dr. Peterson works out of the University of Iowa and her Research lab in Iowa City.
4. Although a separate entity the ESS Foundation board works well with the Parent club throughout the year on things going on in the research world with PRA, This report is just a small synopsis of highlights of the year. I can say that there is a lot of activity within both the bench side and the field side of our springer worlds.

Thank you to the governors, officers and active members who are dealing with items throughout the year and for the most part get things solved or brought up for discussion. It has been a pleasure to be president of this great organization.

Field VP Report – David presented the topics discussed at the Field Governor's meeting on April 27, 2018. Below is his report:

- General comments:
  - Visitor comments: None
  - Interim phone meetings- No additions to minutes
- Field Awards Committee – We established a Field Award Committee with the purpose of tracking and distributing the field awards and trophies for the Parent Club. 2 Members will be the NOC and NAC secretaries and we are looking for 2 volunteers to join them. Mhari Peschel and Jan Johnson will update us when they select their committee members.
- Approvals:
  - 2019 HOF Tennessee Trial chair is Mike Wallace and Joh Meyer. The Volunteer English Springer Spaniel Club is willing to run the trial and assume financial responsibility.
  - 2018 Parent Club Fall Trial chair is Dan Lussen.
- Recommendations for Life Patron Award for 2019 – None proposed this year.
- Old Business:
  - David Hopkins to review the By-Laws for updates on process and procedures, requested research into communication by e-mail as opposed to physical mailings; Meeting and voting for the NAC and for the Parent Club meetings.
    - NAC governing resolutions would be updated to recognize electronic meetings and voting. The Govement can make this process change to the NAC governing resolution. We noted that a straw poll would need to be required prior to the BOG making any substantive changes.
In order to allow electronic voting for the Parent Club, we would need to update the By-Laws as per David’s proposal. After a short review period by the Governors to review wording, David will take the proposal to the AKC for pre-approval. Once we have a final work product, this would need to go to our full membership for a vote. However, the AKC allows this to be done retrospectively and the membership vote for this issue could be done electronically. Electronic voting per Delaware Law and AKC requires a third party organization to administer the ballot process. All were in favor of making this change as it better reflects current communication practice and is more time and cost efficient so we can carry out membership votes and be more response to members.

- Trial Management—Puppy Judges names should be on the premium. The AKC will not accept an application if the puppy judges names are not on the premium.
- Tail docking – Bench members are proposing a vote to the entire membership to change the ESS Breed Standard. Feedback from the Field community is that they are opposed to changing the standard considering risk of injury to non-dock tails, and legislative trends to outlaw docking which can be seen in Europe and multiple states.

- New Business:
  - The delegates of 2017 NAC voted for a permanent date change stating that the date for the National Amateur could not be before 11/21 as of the NAC 2019. We are asking for the BOG to vote on the 11/21 date. This is a constant subject of complaints causing early hot weather trials.
  - Field governors semi-annual submitting of trial dates: need to provide gun captain’s name and insurance policy number for club for approval.
  - In accordance with the rules and policies of the Parent Club, that all ESSFTA awards will only be awarded to ESSFTA members, the BOG will also align on this policy for the High Point Awards. We will be announcing this process in 2018 when we launch the new membership software.

- Club Business:
  - Club sizes and low entry’s. Encourage clubs to work together to increase participation with clubs in the same state.
  - We discussed the Interclub’s challenges for new clubs and dates and we hope that with the 11/21 National date, it will provide relief with some additional dates.
  - A reminder from Cathy Lewis that it is critical when selecting grounds for field trial events to ensure that the grounds do not have mean seeds. If a club decides to use grounds where there are mean seeds, a recommendation is that this should be noted on the premium so handlers and owners are aware of this ahead of the event.

- Membership Business:
ESSFTA Membership Meeting - Saturday, April 28, 2018  Phoenix, AZ

- Sue Burgess, Peter Renwick, David Sanford and Barb Granatir will join Danelle (chair) to review a new Membership software program called Club Express which can link to the ESSFTA website. Danelle proposed this software because it is very functional and easy to use.

- Gunning Committee Report—Robert Clayton, Chair
  - Recommendation to add a continued education program to Gun Captains and those qualified guns that are working towards Gun Captains.
  - Robert Clayton will be stepping down as National Gun Chair and Morgan Haglin will be taking this role. John Meyer and Mark Haglin will be the Co-Chairs for the Mid-West.

- Apprentice Judges Committee Report:
  - Updated list of judges to be given to regional governors
  - Update website with judges list in members only area

- Hall of Fame Committee Report—David Sanford, Field VP, Chair
  - Request for potential candidates, please send to David Sanford.
  - HOF Nominating Committee Update—Bob Bullard, David Sanford, Field VP, Ray Cacchio, Mark Hairfield, Dan Lussen, Mhari Peschel, Jess Sekey
  - Proposal to use the $ 500 from the Pro Plan Allocation to fund the framed painting in the Hall of Fame.

Bench VP Report – Peggy presented the topics discussed at the Bench Committee Meeting from April 27, 2018. Below is her report:

- Old Business
  - Reminder that any voting on change to the Breed Standard must be pushed forward by vote of the Board of Governors to the membership. Bench Governors stand united in support of natural tails being permitted by wording in our standard.

- New Business
  - Voted not to offer a regional specialty in conjunction with American Spaniel Club – Flushing Spaniel show
  - Sue Ellen Healy will look into the possibility of Meet the Breed booth for Pier shows/Westminster
  - Review of tie-breaker criteria for Annual Show Awards. Duplicate awards will be made effective with the 2018 awards, this rescinds the 2014 motion which created tie breakers.
  - Crufts eligibility certificates – The National Specialty and the AKC Championship show are qualifying shows for Crufts. Two entries have been reserved for ESS should the winner of Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Selects, Awards of Merit or Breed by Exhibitor are
qualified by virtue of having a natural tail or docked prior to April 6, 2007.

- A new challenge trophy has been approved, the Kay N Dee Challenge Hunter Trophy. This bronze by Tony Acevedo is offered by Deb Kirk to the Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Winners Dog or Winners Bitch at the National Specialty that has any AKC Hunting Title. It will be commemorated by a plaque given to the owner. For permanent possession of the Trophy, it must be won by the owner 4 times but not necessarily with the same dog. The trophy will remain in the possession of the Parent Club until won outright.

- A task force (Members: Randy Capsul, Kathy Patregnani, and Henrietta Schmidt) was established to update the Registry of Merit.

- The National Specialty Committee has approved a $1,000 donation to assist in scanning the National Specialty Show Catalogs for the archives.

Committee Reports:
- Awards Committee: We want to continue the support of ESS through multi-titlist awards, recognizing that this promotes our dogs in all venues. Before the new Rally Master class is added to our top annual awards, the number of competitors in this class needs to be evaluated. A PACH year end award will be recognized for 2018 titles (this will not be retroactive). It was voted that the existing annual Preferred Agility Dog award criteria will be equal to the Agility Dog criteria.

- National Specialty –
  - 2018 - Purina Farms
  - 2019 – Pala Mesa Resort, Fallbrook, CA
  - 2020 - Purina Farms
  - 2021 – possible location Frankenmuth, MI

- Nominating Committee Selection – Bev Felton

Membership Secretary Report – Update from Danelle Oliver. This report includes the fiscal year from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

We welcomed 53 new members this past year. The current number of members is 752. There are:
- 425 in Conformation
- 222 in Hunting
- 202 in Field
- 143 Hunting & Field combined
- 79 Did not renew this year.

Four reminders went out. We have had issues with the change in Verizon emails. As well as the usual AOL email issues. Kim has been helpful in reaching these people with “mail chimp”. Board members have also been helpful in reaching members.

Due to these issues and the issues with new website, we extended renewal until June 30, 2018 pending BOG approval. The Pay Pal option will be held open until then.
Even with the issues, we had 334 Family and Individual membership, renew online.

We are down to just 7 people using snail mail.

**Treasurer Report** - Kathy presented the Treasurer report. Since the report is lengthy, Kathy focused on the summary statements on pages 2-4 for the year ending in 2017. Detailed report will be sent out via Announce and posted on the members only section of the ESSFTA website. She noted the following:

- While our cash and treasury is healthy, our Net Income for 2017 was a negative 5K. She noted that the expenses in 2017 included the $7500 we donated to the CHF Initiative on Tick-Borne Diseases. The entire amount of that $7500 came from Purina donations.
- Event income is up due to increase in participants and the 5 day agility event at the National Bench Specialty.
- Initial reported dues Income is 7K. Dues are still being collected due to Membership software issues.
- We also incurred 9K in expenses for website maintenance.
- Kathy asked that everyone review their budget and send her any additional 2018 budget requests.

**AKC Delegate Report** – Sue Burgess has sent out the Delegates report via Announce. Sue asked for a volunteer to review the AKC Marketplace for accuracy. Sue will be attending the June Meeting and also will be attending an AKC Parent Club Meeting. If you have input, please send to Sue. David Hopkins also mentioned that he is proposing a process change to the AKC Nominating Committee similar to the process used for our Parent Club Nominating Committee. David represents the Illinois Club which is a single club that also participates at the AKC Delegates meeting. Congratulations to both David and Sue who were voted to be on AKC Hunting and Field Committee.

**Committee Reports: AKC Gazette Editorial Board** – Sarah continues in this role.

**Archive Committee** – David Hopkins reported that they are working on inputting all National Catalogs into electronic format to create a virtual tour. They are making good progress. The Foundation committed 3K for this effort. The David is requesting an additional $ 2500 from the Parent Club which will be voted on at the BOG meeting.

**BERP Committee**- As happens every year since the list was reformatted in 2011, the committee reviewed 1/3 of the BERP members every year. This takes place once all the membership information has been processed. The current BERP list has 66 “members”. The current committee who together review new applicants and also work together on the annual reviews are: Carol Callahan, Chair, Cathy Lewis, Joyce “Zippy” Cooper, Elaine Vanderslice, Barbara Boettcher and Nanci LaMarque, secretary.

**Field Trial Gunning** – Included in the Field VP report.

**Foundation Report** – Sue Burgess encouraged everyone to go onto the website and view the new Memorial Garden where you can honor members and dogs which have
contributed to the Breed. Key Foundation reports as well as other information from the Canine Health foundation are posted on the Foundation website (PRA, Tick-Bourne, etc) which can be accessed from the ESSFTA website or directly at http://www.englishspringerfoundation.org.


**Hunting/Working Dog Test Report** – Randy provided the following report:
During calendar year 2017 there were a total of 118 spaniel hunting test titles awarded to English Springer Spaniels. This is comparable to the 121 titles awarded in 2016. Overall hunting test statistics from the AKC are not yet available at the time of compiling the summary report, but will be provided in a future update on the Spotlight. The various levels of titles earned by English Springer Spaniels were as follows: 45 Junior Hunter titles; 43 Senior Hunter titles; 1 Senior Hunter Advanced title; 24 Master Hunter titles; 5 Master Hunter Advanced titles. This compares to 2016 titling numbers of: 41 Junior Hunter titles; 46 Senior Hunter titles; 1 Senior Hunter Advanced title; 29 Master Hunter titles; 4 Master Hunter Advanced titles.

Participation in the Working Dog Test program remained consistent to past years, though there are limited number of tests offered each year. During calendar year 2017 there were five WD titles and two WDX titles awarded. WDX titles were earned by the following: KoCreek Hillcrest Imperial
Karen Livingston, Melody Carranza, Mark Mayer LowerCreek Tazzmanian Devil BN RN JH Julie Asmus

WD titles were earned by the following: MACH Trailwind's Right On Target UD, VER, SH, MX, MXJ, MXB, MJB, OF, TD, RE Randy Capsel & Cheryl Clark Lakevilles Travis
McGee Jon Pidde Hillcrest Just The Ticket Karen Lumb & Diane Gribble
Quesst Hi Amore Berkenbar
Kayla Franks & Virginia Huxley McD's I'm Into Something Good Lori K. Miller

One spaniel hunting test and working dog test will be offered in conjunction with the ESSFTA National Specialty in September. The test is scheduled for the Sunday following the National Specialty events. Tim Pullian is event chairperson and Cathy Pullian is the event secretary. Continued difficulties in finding suitable grounds for the hunting tests in conjunction with the National Specialty presents challenges and a big thanks to Tim and Cathy for their persistence and efforts in this task. has been challenging at times over the past few years. We want to thank the National Specialty committee for continuing to work with the hunting test committees in finding suitable scheduling structures to avoid conflicts with other National Specialty events and at the same time providing opportunities to offer the field events in conjunction with the National Specialty. Being a sporting breed many have expressed it is imperative to offer field event opportunities at National Specialty events.

**Judges Education Committee** – Lauren Howard is the Chairperson and provided the following report:
- This has been a pretty quiet year for Judges’ Education. We were
disappointed that we had no requests from regional clubs for the presentation at their specialties. It was also quiet in terms of requests from AKC or other judge educational institutes. We had only one, in March 2018, at the Louisville KY cluster, through AKC. It was well-attended by 22 judge applicants. The Judge's Education Presentation at the our National Specialty drew 6 judge applicants along with about 20 interested observers. We did ringside mentoring every day of breed competition.

- We have recently made a request of the board of governors to hire a professional illustrator to completely revamp our illustrated standard. That project will be complete one year or less from the time we contract with her, depending on the board's approval.

- We considering making a very simplified brochure for handouts to judges at this year's national, in place of an illustrated standard. It would be a tri-fold one page publication which can be updated with drawings from the new illustrated standard after they are completed. This would serve as quick reference guide to judges while in the ring.

- The committee is very excited about the production of a new illustrated standard and hope to have it underway quickly. Please see the below proposal:

2018 Proposal for the New Illustrated Standard:
The Judges Education Committee would like to submit that our parent club is in need of a professionally illustrated standard. What we have had in the past is more text than illustration, and we have had to continually replace incorrect drawings from the original product. (As the illustrator of the original IBS, I believe we need much better photographs to work from, and I am not a professional illustrator!) We have found a company that we feel is exactly the right fit for us. They have created over 30 IBS's for other parent clubs, and the results are truly fabulous!

This artist, Jeanne Williamson, works with the members of the Judges Education Committee by email, with 1-2 week turnaround. The entire project is under contract and finished in one year or less. Having worked on the previous IBS, we understand the process and what illustrations are needed. We have collected a library of the photographs needed for the illustrations, and we are ready to work with her!

The price is $4500, but considering the time, talent, and knowledge of this company, we believe it is definitely worth the investment to have a professionally done product that will stand the test of time.

This much-needed, in-hand learning tool will guide our judges, our breeders, and people new to the breed. Our plan is that it will be published on the ESSFTA website for all to see or download. The JEC will then be able to print out the copies we need for judge applicants at our seminars. This will eliminate the need for printing and publishing - a huge investment as well as an unwieldy product in terms of storing and mailing.

Sue Burgess will be on hand at the board meeting to represent the JEC. I am sending this to each of you with an attachment to the company. We would really appreciate it if you would take the opportunity to review the artist's work and the contract prior to the
meeting! We believe that judges, breeders, and exhibitors of this breed will greatly benefit from a new, clearer illustrated standard!

Please find her work at www.illustratedstandard.com. On the artist's bio page, there are links to the many standards she has done.

**Legislative Report** – Special thanks to Tracey Johnston for her work throughout the entire year. She has asked that we all encourage members in our states to contact with information about Legislation in your State and she will send letters on behalf of the Parent Club.

**Marketing Committee** – Sarah Ferrell continues to manage the ESSFTA Store for the club.

**Pro Plan Allocation Committee** – Elaine Vanderslice has been appointed committee chairperson. Elaine has approved $500 to fund the framed painting for the Hall of Fame.

**Rescue Committee Report** – Randy noted that 945 ESS were assisted by various rescue groups. During calendar year 2017 the following total English Springer Spaniels assisted by the various rescue organizations were as listed below:

- NEESSR: Total Assisted = 12
- MAESSR: Total Assisted = 155
- ESSBARC: Total Assisted = 9
- ESRA: Total Assisted = 756
- ESSCLI: Total Assisted = 13

Total Assisted = 945

**Spotlight** – Terri Hallman continues as editor of the Spotlight. Thanks to Terri for the very professional newsletter.

**Election of Board:**
Nominating Committee Report - Mark reviewed the report of the Nominating Committee and expressed his appreciation to the outgoing Governors. Since the report of the Nominating Committee was not contested, it was approved and the Governors, Class of 2021, were seated: Mike Pollack (F, R), Bob Beauchamp (F, R), Amy Rogers (F, AL), Erin Kerfoot (B, R), Lori DiLorenzo (B, R), Carol Jansen (B, R), and Sue Burgess (B,
AL).
The committee also arrived at the following slate for the Officers whom will be seated at the Board of Governor meeting:

- President: Mark Haglin (MN)
- VP/Field: Dave Sanford (MO)
- VP/Bench: Peggy Presnall (TX)
- Treasurer: Kathy Nestor*
- Corresponding Secretary: Barb Granatir*
- Membership Secretary: Danelle Oliver
- AKC Delegate: Sue Burgess*

*Denotes incumbent

Thanks to those out going Governors: Greg Wharton, Frank Mackinson, Marilyn Burke and Jan Johnson.

Unfinished Business:

- Randy finalized a "one-stop" document to access officer, governor, and committee chairperson contact information allowing for easier information access for the membership. He is waiting for final edits and then we will publish on the ESSFTA website by early May, 2018. Randy will maintain and work with the webmaster to post updates.

New Business:

- Proposal to purchase Membership Software, Club Express to manage membership applications, renewals and membership distribution lists. Danelle Oliver (chair) made a proposal and her committee is as follows: Peter Renwick, Sue Burgess, David Sanford and Barb Granatir. Approval for budget to be reviewed at BOG meeting.

Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 9:58 AM.