Bench Governors’ Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2018

The ESSFTA Bench Governors meeting was called to order at 1:00PM April 27, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Airport in Phoenix, AZ. Bench Vice President Peggy Presnall presiding. In attendance were governors Carol Jansen, Kathy Patregnani, Sue Ellen Healy, Bev Felten and Peggy Presnall, and AKC Delegate Sue Burgess. Guests were Randy Capsel and Larry Schwartz. Absentee Governors were Terri Hallman, Brenda Mills, Erin Kerfoot and Marilyn Burke.

Regional Reports
No regional reports were presented.

Old Business
A reminder was stated 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.
There will be a new round of voting for the National Specialty breed and sweepstakes judges for 2020 and 2021 initiated soon.
The new ESSFTA website is still a work-in-process.

New Business
American Spaniel Club each year asks if ESSFTA would like to hold a Regional specialty in conjunction with the Flushing Spaniel Show in January. The Governors present voted to not offer this.
Each year we are asked by AKC/Westminster KC to present a Meet the Breed at the pier shows associated with Westminster. Sue Ellen Healy has volunteered to coordinate this for the upcoming year.
Persons interested in helping are encouraged to contact Sue Ellen.
The Awards Committee has reviewed the tie-breaker criteria for Annual Show Awards. Motion was made, seconded and carried that the 2014 motion which created these tie-breakers based on accomplishments of progeny and get would be rescinded and duplicated awards will be made effective with the 2018 awards.
The National Specialty is designated as a qualifying show for Crufts, along with the AKC Championship show. Two entries to Crufts have been reserved for English Springer Spaniels should a winner of BOB, BOS, Selects, AOMs or Bred-By-Exhibitor are qualified by virtue of having a natural tail or docked prior to 4/6/2007.
A new Challenge Trophy is being offered by Deb Kirk. The KND Challenge Hunter Trophy is a bronze statue by Tony Acevedo, offered to the BOB, BOS WD or WB at the National Specialty that has any AKC Hunting title. The win will be commemorated by a plaque given to the owner. For permanent possession of the trophy it must be won by the same owner four (4) times, not necessarily with the same dog. The trophy will remain in the possession of ESSFTA until won outright. Motion was made, seconded and carried.
It has been noted that the Registry of Merit is in need of updating because of new titles offered by AKC. A task force of Randy Capsel, Henriette Schmidt and Kathy Patregnani was established for this purpose. The National Specialty Committee approved a donation of $1,000. To assist in the scanning of all 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

**Judges Education –**

The report from the JEC was read to those present.

It was also noted to those present that there is some discomfort within the committee that they are not informed of what is transpiring at any given time or made aware of when a judges’ education program will be presented. There have been complaints that the dogs used for hands-on are not necessarily good examples of the breed when adequate dogs are/could be available. Also a report was received of derogatory remarks made by presenters targeting specific kennels and faulting most dogs currently shown. This will be followed up on with the JEC.

Thank you again to Laurie Green for organizing the Meet the Breed at the AKC Championship show.

**Nominating Committee Selection**

Bev Felten will again represent the Bench Governors on the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Presnall