

## Annual Convention of Delegates

American Sighthound Field Association  
 Holiday Inn – Hudson, OH  
 March 28-29, 2009

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**Saturday, March 28, 2009**

Call to Order @ 9:00a (Lipps)

### A) Roll call and seating of delegates

Club	Initials	Delegate	Present/Absent
Alamo Area Whippet Club	AAWC	Dana Moran	Present
Alamo Area Whippet Club	AAWC	Joe Hollman	Present
American Saluki Association	ASA	Jeff Lipps	Present
American Whippet Club	AWC	CJ Fox	Present
Apalachee Coursing Club	ACC	John Bruntlett	Absent
Basenji Club of America	BaCOA	Russ Jacobs	Present
Borzoi Club of America	BCOA	R. Lynn Shell	Present
Colorado Lure Coursing Association	CLCA	Peter Lowe	Present
Coursing Hounds of the Mid Potomac	CHAMP	Edward Madden	Present
District Area Sighthounds	DASH	Bob Jordan	Present
Galveston Bay Saluki Club	GBSC	Lucia Prieto	Present
Gazehounds of New England	GONE	Clay Leslie	Present
Gazehounds of New England	GONE	Mark Zacheis	Present
Greyhound Assoc. Of North Georgia	GANG	Les Pekarski	Present
Greyhound Assoc. Of North Georgia	GANG	Shirri Peak	Present
Heartland Coursing Association	HCA	Scott Hurlbert	Present
Heartland Coursing Association	HCA	Vickie Jacobs	Present
Iowa Coursing Association	ICA	Sean McMichael	Present
Irish Wolfhound Club of America	IWCA	Mike Ferris	Present
Jersey Rag Racers Whippet Association	JRRWA	Libby Kirchener	Present
Jersey Rag Racers Whippet Association	JRRWA	Fritz Kirchener	Present
Lehigh Valley Coursing Club	LVCC*	Leslie Carroll	Present
Lone Star Whippet Club	LSWC	Denny Baker	Present
Lone Star Whippet Club	LSWC	Jack Downing	Present
Mason Dixon Ibizan Hound Club	MDIHC	Ian Davies	Present
Mason Dixon Ibizan Hound Club	MDIHC	Lori Coulson	Present
Metropolitan Atlanta Whippet Association	MAWA	Sandra Moore	Present
Michigan Gazehound Association	MGA	Joe Shumaker	Present
Michigan Gazehound Association	MGA	Gayle Kytta	Present
Mid-Atlantic Deerhound Association	MADA	Diane Murray	Present
Monterey Bay Coursing Association	MBCA	Christie Beetz	Present
Nebraska Coursing Association	NCA	Marilyn Standerford	Present
OKI Gazehound Organization	OKIGO	Janet Lotz	Present
OKI Gazehound Organization	OKIGO	Holly Hamilton	Present
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of United States	RRCUS	Debbie Bell	Present
Saluki Club of America	SCOA	Tom Cigolle	Present
Sighthound Organization of the Tidewater	SHOT	Gary Roush	Present
Southeastern Greyhound Club	SEGC	Dawn Ferris	Present
Southeastern Greyhound Club	SEGC	John Parker	Present

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St Louis Area Sighthounds	SLASH	Karen Frederick	Present
Tortoise & Hare Lure Coursing Club	THLC	Pete Mendicino	Present
Tortoise & Hare Lure Coursing Club	THLC	Don Ewing	Present
Tri-State Sighthound Club	TSSC	Ping Pirrung	Present
Tri-State Sighthound Club	TSSC	Jane Schreiber	Present
Upper Chesapeake Bay Saluki Club	UCBSC	Dean Wright	Present
Upper Chesapeake Bay Saluki Club	UCBSC	Audrey Silverstein	Present
Coursing Hounds of the Mid-Potomac	CHMP	Judy Brader	Present
Scottish Deerhound Club of America	SDCA	Jeff Beddrick	Present

- a) Vote tallies determined that Saturday's majority ( $\frac{1}{2}+1$ ) = 24 and that Saturday's 2/3 majority = 32
- b) Sergeants at Arms— recommended were Sean McMichael; Parliamentarian—recommended was Russ Jacobs and Bob Jordan; Tellers— recommended were Marilyn Standerford and CJ Fox

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the recommended sergeants at arms, parliamentarian, and tellers.

### B) Minutes of the 2008 Annual Convention of Delegates (D Jensen Moran)

Dana reminds everyone that minutes from the 2008 ACoD were made available on-line at the [www.asfa.org](http://www.asfa.org) website and that she has a handful of hardcopies available here today if anyone would like to see them. She solicits any reports of correction, alteration or change.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the minutes as edited

### C) Report of the President (Lipps)

Jeff begins by observing that a year ago when he spoke before the convention, he identified what he saw as the challenges for ASFA both financial and competitive. He pledged that if he was elected President, he would never stray from our core competencies and to work to size the organization's administration appropriately. He also pledged to enhance communications and create greater transparency and to take full advantage of our electronic capabilities, specifically our website. He stands before this ACoD with the belief that we have either accomplished these things or have set them on a course to accomplishment before the end of his term. He emphasizes that he has not been alone in his efforts. As the ACoD knows, Jeff had two challengers for the Presidency and in the past year they have been some of the most stalwart people on the Board and in moving this organization forward. For this, he offers gratitude to Mike Ferris and Dean Wright. In addition, the carry-over Board Members following the election also worked cohesively, and Jeff thinks it safe to say we were of a single-mind to perpetuate and better ASFA based on consensus.

The beginning of the year was like a fresh start as we held the RD elections and welcomed a whole new group of RDs to the Board. Jeff expresses that he has been greatly impressed by the talent that the member clubs have brought forward with the RDs. On the Board, we have immediately clicked and have been able to communicate well on the electronic list to get many things done that will allow us to proceed without the cost of face-to-face meetings, though we have had two of those since Jeff was elected.

We have faced challenges. We were faced, for example, with the possibility of losing our FAN Editor. Dean Wright and John Parker were instrumental in convincing our Editor Jackie Nivison to stay on a while longer. Jackie has now resigned the post for personal reasons, and the Board has seamlessly transitioned to Jackie's daughter Eve King who had been a member of Jackie's team. This situation was met and stabilized. We faced similar issues with our web-master Caroline Deal who, unfortunately, lost her battle with cancer shortly after Jeff took office. We have completed a

search at this time and have found someone who is very talented and committed to what ASFA is doing.

We continue to face competitive challenges from AKC and other performance venues. In addition and probably worst of all, we have had to worry about gas prices. Jeff doesn't expect anyone was prepared for the economy to have the complete melt down that the Country is facing right now. No one anticipated this, and it is frightening, especially from the President's point of view, looking to see how an organization that has survived as many years as ASFA has can position itself to prosper.

We have been around for 37 years plus and ASFA has proven it is durable and capable of overcoming challenges. In the next two days, Jeff hopes that the ACoD will come away with the belief that the Board is addressing these problems and has positioned the organization in a way that it is stronger and will continue to grow.

Jeff has one more subject to address that comes with the job of President that he did not appreciate before now. This is how we deal with the passing of people that have been important parts of our organization. He is not the first to encounter this problem nor will he be the last, but this year has been particularly trying. In just this last month we have lost ASFA's record's programmer Bob Guerette, ASFA contributor Denny Reed of the Midwest and a beloved ASFA friend Carolyn Mountain. We all know this is the circle of life, but as dog-owners we are more prepared for it. We see the shorter life-cycle and understand that when life passes we have another litter and get a puppy. That is what our organization is; we need our puppies, we need the young people to continue. Jeff doesn't think this is unique to the organization but it is the strength of it. Why? After 38 years of attempting to create this organization, the originators and early participants are getting to that age when passing on is the next step, and it is just natural to keep the puppies in mind. Let's get the young people involved; let's infect it with young people, and then they'll pass it on to the next generation when we, too, are passed.

Jeff had the good fortune to celebrate Mary Jane Helder's life earlier this year, and he was struck by the number of lure coursers he met up there, some of whom travelled 500-600 miles to get there. He was reminded how tight-knit a community we are in, and one of the most touching moments came when Mary Jane's granddaughter said on the microphone "I only hope that this many people will be here to see me when I die." Her words are a reminder that this is who we are - a lure coursing community who will always be around us and who will always be there for one another.

In closing, welcome to the ACoD. Jeff hopes that the delegates will find the weekend's discussions valuable and will walk away with a renewed enthusiasm for the ASFA

### **D) Report of the Vice Presidents (Ferris & Baker)**

Michael Ferris indicates that when he took the office he didn't know with certainty what the responsibilities of the first vice president were. So he looked up the job description and as it turns out, his sole job is to "hold the meeting" in case the President isn't there. He thought this is something he can do - make sure Jeff is there. And yet surely there was more he could contribute. So Mike began to insulate Jeff from some of the more trivial matters that came to the Board, and he reports doing a fine job of this, but again...something more seemed possible. So, Mike alleges, he began agitating Jeff on the Board, and he found he was really good at this.

But for all the pleasure this last task offered, it did little to serve the fancy. Mike, reports then, that Long Range Planning became his central focus as its Chair. He foreshadows that he'll have more to say later about this committee's ideas, and emphasizes that this is the kind of work the Vice President should be doing. He is excited to present more to you, and thanks the ACoD for the opportunity.

Denny Baker reminds the ACoD that she has had the pleasure to serve the fancy for the last three years in her current position, and that she, too, has some skill in agitating Jeff. Outside of this, she

has also served as the Chair for Computer and Policies Committees and served on Minutes Review Committee and as the liaison to the RD Committee. In the last six months, she has had a great time in her volunteer post and reaffirms what Jeff proposed, namely that the new make-up of the Board and RDs has been positive and promises much productivity for the next year.

### **E) Report of the Recording Secretary (Moran)**

Dana Moran recaps her work for the ASFA in the last three years, acknowledging that her first term as Recording Secretary involved little more than recording and typing, equipment sitting and printing. Having mastered the grade-level responsibilities of her job, however, her second term has allowed her to expand her service and involvement. This last year she has added agitating Jeff to her list of responsibilities and, some may argue, has excelled in the area. With sincerity, Dana adds that she has been active on a number of committees in 2008-2009 including Membership, CRC and REC. She thanks both Vickie Jacobs and Marilyn for the opportunity to have worked with them and appreciates the chance to have learned some of the REC ropes from Russ Jacobs. Of all the committee work that Dana has been involved, however, the most rewarding to date as been Long Range Planning. This group has come up with a number of compelling and exciting ideas that she looks forward to sharing with you later in the weekend.

### **F) Report of the Corresponding Secretary (Pirring)**

Ping acknowledges that, as Jeff observes, she has come "cold" into the position of Corresponding Secretary having not been on the Board previously. She has enjoyed it immensely, though she has not yet picked up the knack of annoying Jeff. Ping appreciates everyone's support and understanding as she learns the routine tasks of her position.

Ping reports that correspondence has been answered efficiently and swiftly. Of interest, ASFA has established the ASFA Communiqué which will be used to post information about Board decisions and relevant news to club activity. ASFA club delegates have been added to a yahoo list called ASFA\_Communique and notice of their enrollment to the list should have come by email. Communiqué posts are a one-way communication from the ASFA President and Corresponding Secretary. Delegates will not be able to post answers back to the list, but should direct questions or concerns about information shared on the list to the Corresponding Secretary directly.

Another exciting bit of news to share with the ACoD is the receipt of a letter from the Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America seeking full breed recognition of the ASFA. Having been first allowed participation in ASFA events as of November 1999, the Cirneco breed began as a miscellaneous breed until January 2004 when it was moved to limited status. Effective March 1, 2007, the breed gained provisional status and has continued to support ASFA competition with noteworthy numbers. Having filled all the requirements for the request, the CdECA officially seeks full breed recognition from the ACoD in this year 2009.

Ping clarifies that if full recognition is granted, the Cirneco dell'Etna breed would be eligible to compete as a breed beginning April 1, 2010. Ballots have been mailed to clubs for proxy voting, and those delegates present today will be asked to cast a vote for or against the CdECA's request.

The ACoD hears a brief presentation by Lucia Prieto and Joe Hollman regarding the Cirnechi breed. The ACoD votes and tellers confirm that the Cirneco dell'Etna breed unanimously is granted full breed recognition.

### **G) Report of the Chief Financial Officer (Roush)**

Gary begins his report indicating he feels like he won the lottery. The last few years he has heard the former CFO give difficult reports with disappointing numbers. Gary will have the privilege of reporting, however, a financial surplus for 2008. While tempted to take credit for the improved performance, Gary ultimately explains the sources – good and bad – that rendered the financial results we had. The reason we are reporting a financial surplus this year is the result of a three-year process of changing our focus to recognize that we are no longer an organization running

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17,000 hounds per year. Rather, in the last six years we have become an organization striving mightily to make 13,000 hounds. We needed to seriously readjust our expenses to reflect this reality. Gary indicates the Board has done an excellent of meeting this need.

### **ITEM A: Financial Status 12 Months Ended December 31, 2008**

	Full Year Budget Amount	Full Year Actual Amount	Over (Under) Budget	Per Cent
<b>Income</b>				
ACOD	7,000	7,299	299	4%
Forms	3,500	2,536	(964)	-28%
Per capita	48,000	48,038	38	0%
Invitationals	5,500	5,040	(460)	-8%
Membership	9,000	8,689	(311)	-3%
FAN	12,000	15,130	3,130	26%
Miscellaneous	3,000	3,044	44	1%
Interest	10	11	1	10%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>88,010</b>	<b>89,788</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
ACOD	7,000	5,052	(1,948)	-28%
Forms	3,000	2,264	(736)	-25%
Invitationals	2,500	711	(1,789)	-72%
FAN	16,000	18,140	2,140	13%
Miscellaneous	2,500	3,182	682	27%
Board meetings	16,000	10,192	(5,808)	-36%
Regional Directors	2,500	339	(2,161)	-86%
Records	27,000	26,775	(225)	-1%
Committees	7,000	3,251	(3,749)	-54%
Trophy refurbishment	300	-	(300)	-100%
Rule book reprint	2,000	-	(2,000)	-100%
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>85,800</b>	<b>69,908</b>	<b>(15,892)</b>	<b>-19%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>19,881</b>	<b>17,671</b>	<b>800%</b>

#### **Cash balances:**

Checking account, beginning of year	10,764
Twelve months of operations	19,881
Checking account, December 31, 2008	<u>30,645</u>

**ITEM B: FINANCIAL STATUS 12 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008, FUNCTIONAL COMPARISON**

	Revenue	Expenses	Net	Net Budget	Variance	Per Cent
ACOD	7,299	5,052	2,247	-	2,247	
Forms	2,536	2,264	273	500	(227)	-45%
Per capita/records	48,038	26,775	21,263	21,000	263	1%
Invitationals	5,040	711	4,329	3,000	1,329	44%
Membership	8,689		8,689	9,000	(311)	-3%
FAN	15,130	18,140	(3,010)	(4,000)	990	-25%
Miscellaneous	3,044	3,182	(138)	500	(638)	-128%
Interest	11		11	10	1	10%
Board meetings		10,192	(10,192)	(16,000)	5,808	-36%
Regional Directors		339	(339)	(2,500)	2,161	-86%
Committees		3,251	(3,251)	(7,000)	3,749	-54%
Trophy refurbishment			-	(300)	300	-100%
Rule book reprint			-	(2,000)	2,000	-100%
	<u>89,788</u>	<u>69,908</u>	<u>19,881</u>	<u>2,210</u>	<u>17,671</u>	<u>800%</u>

Invitationals:			
2008 International Invitational	3,055		3,055
2008 Regional Invitationals	1,670	711	959
2009 International Invitational	315		315
	<u>5,040</u>	<u>711</u>	<u>4,329</u>

	2008		2007		Change		
FAN:							
Subscriptions	11,923		7,103		4,820		
Advertising	2,843		1,000		1,843		
Single copy sales	364		151		213		
Salaries		7,840		11,572	3,732		
Printing		5,617		6,143	526		
Expenses		4,683		4,160	(523)		
	<u>15,130</u>	<u>18,140</u>	<u>(3,010)</u>	<u>8,255</u>	<u>21,875</u>	<u>(13,620)</u>	<u>10,611</u>

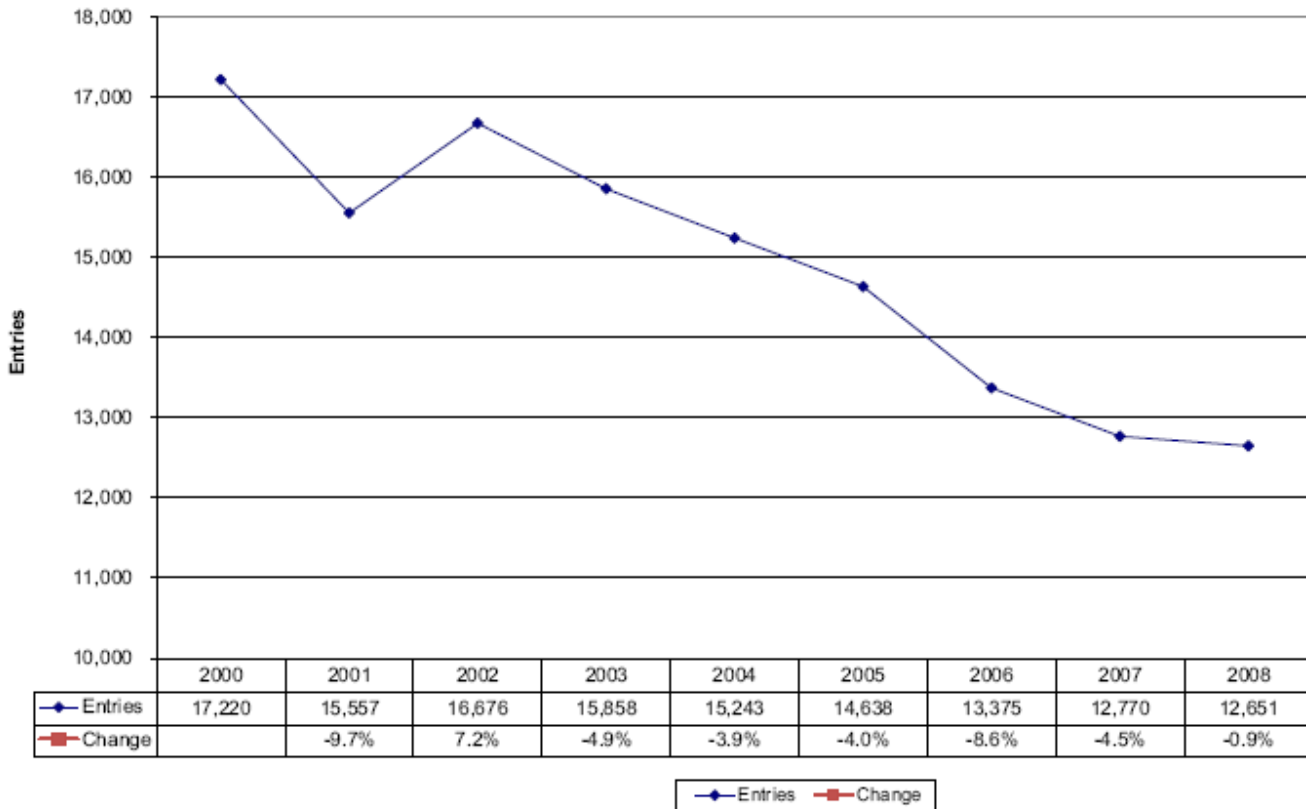
Referencing Item B, Gary points out that ASFA had an unexpected profit generated from ACoD in 2008 in the amount of \$2,247. He reminds the delegates that last year we had a contested election which attracted much more attendance than originally predicted. While we budget ACoD to be a break-even expense/income event – and in fact 2009 will be either a loss or a break-even convention – we can't expect to see this kind of windfall again in the future.

Another good news point to note is 2008 Invitationals. The I.I. netted for ASFA little over \$3,000. To temper this, however, Gary explains that the 2009 I.I. is to be hosted by the ASFA Board. If entries in Boswell, OK do not come in at the levels expected, ASFA is at risk for all the loss. Right now, we are budgeting \$2,000 profit from this year's annual event.

In per capita, the ASFA met our budgeted number and beat it by \$30. While this is good to hear, Gary puts the news in perspective by recalling for the delegates that the budgeted amount was set at 10% less than 2007's number. He emphasizes at this juncture that ASFA is on a cash-basis in terms of financial reporting. This means that numbers in the report through December 2008 do not necessarily include income or expenses that may have been received but not processed by

accounting in that same month. The effect is that entry income received in October, November, and December may not be reflected in the reports until January. To look at the “real” numbers of entries, Gary refers to the Record Coordinator’s reports. The actual entries for 2008 were very close to those received in 2007. See Item B below. If there is any good news to be observed in the chart, it is that while 2008 still experienced a decrease in entries over 2007, the size of the decrease was smaller than many preceding years.

**ITEM C: ASFA Annual Entries 2000-2008**



Returning to Item A, Gary points out that FAN had an absolutely spectacular year because of a number of factors: high quality product, its timeliness, and individuals dedicated to the marketing and sales of it. With respect to subscriptions, ASFA had \$7,300 in subscription revenue in 2007; in 2008, it had \$12,300. Having had a banner year, FAN still lost \$3,000. This is both good and bad news. Moreover, Gary reports that 2009 will be a worse year because many of the subscriptions that were sold were sold as two-year subscriptions. We are looking to receive only \$8,500 in 2009. The ASFA Board recognizes that we cannot go on this way and plans to address this with the ACoD later this convention.

In response to a question from the floor, Gary clarifies that FAN subscriptions going to clubs as a part of their ASFA Membership are not “paid for” by those membership dues. This is to say, no income resulting from ASFA Membership dues is incorporated into the FAN subscription income number.

Next, Gary points to Board meetings costs. In 2008, these were anticipated to cost \$16,000 but thanks both to trimming expenses and to reducing in-person meetings, the actual cost came in closer to \$10,200. Next year, we anticipate one Board Meeting for the year for an expected cost of \$6,000.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the financial report for the ASFA year 2008

Finally, Jeff adds to Gary's report that the ACoD needs to look at the ASFA revenue. Entries came in right where they were budgeted, and this is good news, and really the only element of the budget we can turn to for revenue production.

### Reports of Regional Directors

#### Region 1—Vernon Staack

Ping reads aloud Vern's report. Region I is getting along fine. The two trials that Vern attended have been well organized and the attendees seem to have a good time. Scores were posted in a timely manner; the fields were safe as were the course plans. The SISFA hosted the regional event this year and, as usual, had a good turn out at a well run trial. The clubs in the western part of Washington are having difficulty finding fields to run on, and when they do find fields, the charge for using them is very high. The same area of the State has a lot of competition with other dog sporting events including racing and agility.

#### Region 2—Christie Beetz

Christie is pleased to announce she has double digit entries in her region; she has been promoting ASFA at other performance hound sport venues and winning cross-over attendance at ASFA trials. She indicates having had a positive experience with River City Racing Association, a straight track organization, who is now in the ASFA hook. This year the regional event in May will be hosted by Northern California Whippet Club, past recipient of the ASFA EPA. A good turn out is expected. The Quirky Event is another big event held in Region 2, run at Thanksgiving. She hopes to see you all next year at the ACoD.

#### Region 3—Peter Lowe

Pete observes that his region enjoyed 743 entries in 2008, and that this number is up from last year while still not reaching the height of entries recorded in 2005 (around 1,300). The Colorado Lure Coursing Association is the dominant club in his region with 48% of the trials. Eastern Slopes Coursing Association down in New Mexico is doing well, and Pete is pleased to brag on this club. The rest of the clubs are sort of struggling like everyone. The Rocky Mountain Irish Wolfhound Club is offering more and more AKC trials and the Boulder Club has gone over wholly to AKC. This is a problem. Pete feels like a regional sales manager who needs a better product from the corporation. We need more excitement from ASFA so that we can compete against AKC and the other organizations, and he is very glad to say that the Board Meeting yesterday promises to bring some excitement forward soon. In summary, Pete is worried about competing with AKC but not that worried about it because he believes we are going to win in the end. The problem that local clubs face is the same as for most – difficulty hiring judges and where to host the regional meeting. With respect to the first, in a region where you do not get big entries except perhaps in Whippets and Greyhounds, it is hard to hire judges from other breeds to come out. With respect to the second, Pete acknowledges that Region 3 has some issue hosting Regional meetings because the area is sprawling in size, approximately 1,200 miles. For now they intend to do as they have in the past, getting together telephone meetings, possibly video conferences, to making due this way. Pete

declares that his personal project this year is to do something with Utah. The club there is floundering but he hopes to go there and help them however he can.

Finally, the Grand National celebrates its 36<sup>th</sup> year this year and will be held in conjunction with the Regional Invitational. This will be hosted at the Regional Director's property.

### Region 4—Jack Downing

Jack reports that Region IV's excitement for the year is the opportunity to host the I.I. in Boswell, Oklahoma. He reminds all that entries are not yet closed and to see Ping here at the ACoD. He reports, too, that Region IV has two new affiliate clubs and one new member club: the Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America, Capital Area of Texas Sighthounds and Gazehounds in Texas respectively. In addition, the region has one applied club, the North Texas Saluki Club. They will be hosting their first fun trial in April. Issues for Region 4 include the continued need for fields. They recently lost a very good field in Ferris, TX but continue to look. Jack reports that communication in Region IV is superior with all clubs posting their events on the regional website. In addition, the area is excited to have Frank Zaworski come to our area not only to reside, but judge and lure operate, too.

### Region 5—Scott Hurlbert

Scott informs that his region held 32 trials last year. Half of the Region 5 clubs appeared in the ASFA Top 30 Clubs list for entries in 2008. Region 5 has two parent clubs, 8 active clubs in the area and cleared 1,200 entries in 2008. He thanks those people who cross over region-boundaries (i.e., Region 6 and Region 7) to attend trials in his states. Last year, Regional Directors were asked to encourage clubs to put on just one more trial per year to endeavor to raise total entries. The Minnesota clubs are looking to make this happen as is Heartland Coursing Club who will be adding a third weekend in September. Region 5 regional event will be hosted in Farmington, MN at the location of the 2008 I.I.

### Region 6—Gayle Kytta

Gayle introduces herself and indicates that she lives in the Northeast corner of Region 6 and has Rhodesian Ridgebacks. She reports that Region 6 has 17 active clubs out of 20 listed in her region as well as 33 judges residing in the territory. They have three new affiliate clubs including Lorrain Area Racing Klub who will be applying for member status by the end of next year. Last weekend, Gayle was Lima Kennel Club who has decided to start ASFA lure coursing rather than wading through the AKC red-tape and bureaucracy. In their fun trial, they ran 34 hounds and everyone ran both prelims and finals. She is quite proud and excited for them. Region 6 hosted 50 trials last year and ran nearly 2500 dogs. Their region enjoys not only many trials but also much participation. Out of the 286 dogs (across breeds) in the ASFA Top Twenty for 2008, 63 of them reside in Region 6. That is 22%. Moreover, they have five number one ranked hounds and four number two ranked hounds. They have a lot of people come out and these are enthusiastic and encouraging. For 2009, they already have 37 trials scheduled.

### Region 7—Sandra Moore

Sandra introduces herself. She has Borzoi and is new to the position of Regional Director for her area. In 2008, her 12 clubs ran more dogs than any other region in the United States. They ran 2,550 hounds and offered 53 trials. Seven of the 12 clubs were in the Top 30 for ASFA trials in 2008. The top listed club in fact is from Region 7 and they ran 621 dogs in their trials last year. In this respect, they are doing their part for ASFA per capita income. The region held a regional meeting recently and came up with one good idea for a "handlers meeting" that has been passed on to Field Trial Improvement for further development. With this, we can identify new people who may be uncomfortable and hopefully pair them off with someone more experienced and make them feel welcomed and at ease.

Jeff adds to Sandra's report saying that history was made in Region 7 at the end of last year when one of their clubs held the longest running field trial series comprised of five consecutive days of trials. On the last day, the club took a group photo of all the hounds that had run all five days and in the picture were approximately forty hounds.

### Region 8—Dean Wright

Dean thanks all the clubs in Region 8 for always coming forward when asked for a donation of time, labor or money. He especially thanks Bob Jordan, Audrey Silverstein and Linda Jordan for all their talents and contributions. These people and their club(s) hosted the ACoD hospitality last night and their graciousness is appreciated. Region 8's 2008 Regional held in Pittsburgh had an entry of 66 hounds and was hosted by Tri-State Coursing Club. They had an increase of approximately 25% in entries in 2008 from 2007. In February of 2009, they held the regional meeting attended by 26 people. They decided to do a judges seminar every year in conjunction with their regional event. In addition, the clubs worked together on the coursing calendar and some clubs were asked to pick up free or unused weekends. Lehigh Valley has agreed to pick up a free weekend as has SHOT so that they have two extra weekends. So far this year, Region 8 has had a good start with two trials with large entries. The regional event will be hosted by DASH in New Brunswick in September. Last year, Region 8 hosted the I.I. and has put in to host another I.I. in 2011 under Tri-State Coursing Club. It will be a few weeks earlier than last time in hopes of ensuring better weather.

### Region 9—Rich Whritenour

No report from Rich has been submitted. Clay Leslie reports some information for Region 9. The Region increased the average number of dogs per trial in 2008, lost a club, and lowered its overall number of hounds for the year. LCLC had the most entries for Whippets and Azawakhs; GONE had the most entries for Pharaohs.

### Region 10—Sam Parsons

Sam is not present, but Scott presents on her behalf. Sam apologizes for not being here to meet everyone. Region 10 has been quiet but she is hoping to remedy that. On a personal note, Sam has two Pharaoh Hounds and a Whippet. She has been a Pharaoh person since 1996 and has lure coursed regularly since 1997. She regularly courses up in Christie's Region and has been awards chairperson for MBCA for several years.

So far, Sam has been busy getting acquainted with ASFA's procedures, rules and other administration while keeping up a busy schedule of lure coursing, apprentice judging and life in general. In order to do this, she was forced to clean up her home office area which could be used as a measure of several personality traits.

She is still waiting to pick up the RD supplies from her predecessor but, so far, has not been able to meet her anywhere. Sam has been asking around at trials about why ASFA is not as popular as AKC and has gotten the same responses the Board has been talking about: no one had anything against ASFA per se, but most saw AKC as more prestigious and clubs are doing more AKC trials.

Recently, Sam visited the Basenji Fanciers of Greater Phoenix (a member club) and was impressed at how well their trial was run even though they have only been hosting trials for about 2 years. They have access to some nice fields too. This was an AKC trial, but Sam says she was made very welcome.

**Reports of the Committees**

**A) Invitationals Committee (S Hurlbert)**

Scott reminds everyone that the Invitationals Committee has updated the policies for Regional Invitationals and for the International Invitational. Both sets of policies are up on the ASFA website.

- Regional Invitationals

At this time, the ASFA has four Regional Invitationals on the 2009 calendar. Please look into your region's dates. In addition, Scott provides further details about the modifications to the Regional Invitational policies. He specifies that the eligibility requirements have been changed in the following regards: Operational policy 366 "any hounds with a foreign Field Champion of record title are eligible for entering a Regional Invitational," has been updated to clarify that AKC hounds are eligible; in addition, other eligibility requirements have been newly instituted by the Board. For example, no first-time entered hounds may compete but rather any hound entered in the open stake must have previously competed in the open stake; any non-Field Champion hound entered in the veteran stake must have previously competed in the open or veteran stake. These new eligibility requirements remove the previous one-point requirement for entry in the Regional Invitational events. Beyond this, the Board has established that any hound with a certification waiver title is eligible for entry in Regional Invitational including first-time entered hounds with a certification waiver title.

- International Invitationals

- 2009 – Boswell, OK

- Scott reminds everyone that the entries close on April 1, this coming Wednesday. He refers folks to Dean Wright for making trophy or raffle donations and reminds everyone that Ping Pirrung is the Field Trial Secretary, and Dana Moran is the Field Co-Chair with Jack Downing. He urges everyone to come out to Oklahoma and to enjoy this special event.

- Ping emphasizes that I.I. entries must be in hand, not post marked, by April 1. Also, look over the worksheet carefully, and then look it over again. This makes a huge difference to the FTS and to you.

- 2010 – Lawrence, KS

- The 2010 I.I. will be co-hosted by the ASFA and Heartland Coursing Association, co-chaired by Russ Jacobs and Scott Hurlbert. Julie Hurlbert is the Field Trial Secretary. The site is a 70 acre field in Clinton State Park - Lawrence, Kansas. The date is the last weekend in May. The Chairs are currently working on the judging panel and interested parties should look in the 2009 I.I. catalog for more information.

- 2011 – East Coast Designation

- Scott solicits proposals from Regions 7, 8 and 9, indicating that they have one proposal in hand for co-hosting the event. He stresses that this does not prevent other clubs from submitting multiple proposals. If fanciers think they have a good I.I. site, contact the Invitationals Chair to discuss proposal possibilities.

- o 2012 – West Cost Designation

Though it seems far out, Scott argues it is never too early to begin planning. Regions 1, 2, 3 and 10 are invited to send proposals to their respective Regional Directors.

**B) Scheduling (Como)**

Jeff reports that Denise Como was unable to make it to the ACoD this year, but a member of the Scheduling Committee, Jane Schrieber makes the report in her stead. Accordingly, scheduling seems to be going along as usual. Denise continues to receive positive comments about how easy it is to send/receive/approve dates and premium lists online – it is certainly a much faster turnaround and difficulties can be handled immediately. She suggests that the personal best for a premium list approval was four minutes from start to finish. Sean can chime in with the reduction in costs for Scheduling to almost zero – occasionally I request reimbursement for ASFA related business such as printer cartridges for a minor amount of printing.

A suggestion was made from a club that when the contact person (sender) uses the Date Request link on the ASFA site that an automatic response be sent so the sender knows the request was made. Denise says she still has occasional glitches where the Date Approval form does not make it to [scheduling@asfa.org](mailto:scheduling@asfa.org) or [daterequest@asfa.org](mailto:daterequest@asfa.org).

Denise includes a table of event dates, fun trials and cancellations since 2006. She asks that we please realize that the numbers are not exact – sometimes trials are split with other clubs, or trials listed separately from Regionals, etc. When Denise assumed the position of Scheduling Chair in July of 2006, a history of the events or reasons for cancelling trials did not exist. Jane has possession of the table if anyone on site would to see it, or Jeff is confident Denise will email it to anyone that requests a copy.

**C) Judges Committee (J Helder)**

Jeff confirms that neither Jack Helder nor Leigh Littleton is able to attend our convention this year, and willing to deliver the report of this committee for the third year in a row is Dawn Ferris.

a. Judges Committee

Dawn affirms that activity on the Committee has been slow. As many may already know, Jack's wife passed away late last year. Having the need to tend to priorities, the Committee has focused on holding judging seminars. Last year, one was held in Michigan in May with 10 attendees; another in Nebraska with six attendees; and also in Georgia at the end of the year with three attendees. Dawn indicates that the Nebraska seminar report has not been received by the Committee but the Michigan event was so successful that another has been scheduled for July. The Committee feels strongly that ASFA will see more judges as a result of this program. Evidence supports in that that they are receiving more applications for licensing, and so they would like to see these seminars spread across more of the country.

Although Judges Committee understands that Dean Wright has held multiple judging seminars, they cannot confirm that his approach meets with the Board approved processes and procedures, nor whether the attendees at his version go on to apply for licenses. The Committee has solicited further details from Dean but to date have not received a response.

After reading the report from Leigh Littleton, Jack observes that ASFA has lost judges in 2008. This makes the education program all the more critical for exposing people to the role of judges and making them comfortable with judging hounds. There is no foreseeable way to increase the number of ASFA judges without a concerted effort to expand this program to all

regions, and the support and enthusiasm of the Regional Directors is obviously required. They are the avenue for increasing judges within the next two to four years. If people are interested in hosting an approved seminar, please speak with Dawn. She has the materials required and will help to get the program started.

As a concluding note, Jack's report observes that his Committee has experienced participation from only Dawn Ferris, Dean Wright and himself though others have been assigned to serve it. Outside of these three people, Jack has received no communication from other committee members and naturally no feedback from them on the judges seminar. They've not weighed in nor volunteered to jump-start the program in their respective parts of the country. In short, Jack graciously suggests, in light of the importance of increasing the number of ASFA judges, that the Board consider re-constituting the committee with more enthusiastic and participatory members and/or entertain other approaches to the problem of the diminishing pool of judges.

As is tradition, Judges Committee offers the following list of distinguished TOP TWENTY JUDGES. For sheer pleasure, Leigh has included two bonus judges, judges 21 and 22:

22.	Gary Roush (308)	11.	Kirby Overcash (432)
21.	Dana Moran (316)	10.	Michael Hussey (444)
20.	Dawn Ferris (327)	9.	Jeff Lipps (459)
19.	Holly Hamilton (330)	8.	Scott Hurlbert (488)
18.	Tom Cigolle, Jr (340)	7.	Don Ewing (495)
17.	Heather Minnich (342)	6.	Lee Warden (538)
16.	Jim Anthony (374)	5.	Katie Kaltenborn (538)
15.	Ann Chamberlain (375)	4.	Dean Wright (610)
14.	Karen Catt (387)	3.	Michael Ferris (666)
13.	Kathy Nelson (388)	2.	Janet Lotz 705)
12.	Deann Brittan (402)	1.	Christie Beetz (1,098)

### b. Judges Licensing Chair

Dawn shares with delegates a copy of Leigh Littleton's report that, among other things, reiterates the following notices:

- ASFA Board policy states that any judge who is unable to complete a scheduled assignment must send the judges licensing chair a written explanation within two weeks of the missed assignment. A sufficient explanation must be included in order to allow an informed evaluation of the causes
- Judges applying for change(s) in status should include copies of all documentation needed for the request. Referring to paperwork previously submitted may cause significant delay.
- Please note the Judges Licensing fee is \$30.00. A copy of the Judges Handbook is included in this fee and will be sent upon application. It can also be purchased for \$5.00 when you begin the licensing process. This publication is a helpful tool that can assist new judges to become better judges.

Leigh stresses that if you encounter a problem with a judge or with judging, or if you have difficulties with the judges licensing program, please contact him directly. He takes these issues seriously and if necessary, will take them to the Board.

Jeff adds to the report that the ASFA Board passed some time ago a policy that allowed the publication of judges that are applying for various judge licenses on the website if the

FAN is not being published within 30 days. If you are a judge candidate or if you want to know who the judge candidates are, please check the ASFA website regularly.

**D) FAN (King)**

Jeff reports that Eve King could not be present for likely one of the best reasons he has heard to date. Eve said, "I want to get the FAN to the printers, and so I am staying here to lay it out." Jeff continues by expressing that the FAN's two editors, mother and daughter Jackie Nivison and Eve King, in the year he has been President have done a remarkable job not only to put out a quality publication but also a timely one. As a result, there are really no issues to discuss. Marilyn Standerford has built a very solid database of subscription information that allows us to notify renewal times, and the Board has implemented a mechanism now to confirm that the various judges are in fact receiving FAN.

**E) Records (Coulson)**

Lori Coulson shares with delegates the statistic packet that is the Records Coordinator's report. In the report, Lori points out on page two that ASFA has had an increase in the number of hound competing over 2007. They also had 916 new hounds last year and issued 353 regular titles, 38 veteran titles. Noteworthy as well, Lori notes that ASFA offered 15 more trials in 2008 than in 2007, and Regions 4 and 10 showed the greatest increase.

Lori walks delegates through the sections of the statistics packet and encourages detailed reading at their leisure. Immediately, though, she encourages people to provide email addresses on entry forms so that, if your hound completes a title, she can send an email of congratulations and confirmation as soon as possible. The title certificate will follow behind, but an email will at least allow an owner to know immediately the title was achieved.

With respect to Records 101, Lori emphasizes to Regional Directors and Clubs to use the Records 101 review sheets. Though the rulebook indicates that all records sheets must be fully completed upon submission, she estimates that 80% of them arrive incomplete. She would appreciate then that RDs help educate clubs and Field Trial Secretaries on points such as this. Another example is the entry form. The rulebook demands that all entry forms be 5.5" x 8.5". Field Trial Secretaries receiving 8.5" x 11" entries should make entrants fill out a new form. And don't send Lori AKC entries, either. She asks, too, that if entrants mark on the entry form that there has been a change of ownership for the hound that FTS' collect a copy of the new registration form so that she can keep track.

Lori reviews with delegates the correct way to complete a judge's sheet, addressing excusals, dismissals, and disqualifications.

She encourages people to add her to their mailing list so that she automatically receives a club's premium list along with everyone else. She is designated as a required recipient of premiums and yet she frequently is left out of distribution. The mailing list addition will allow FTS's to "forget" while still getting it done.

Lori encourages contact with her. She responds. She prides herself on good communication and accessibility so please take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

Gary Roush takes a moment at the end of Lori's report to thank Lori for the wealth of information that she provides and the spectacular job that she does. She receives a round of applause.

### F) Membership (Jacobs)

Vickie Jacobs reports that ASFA presently has a total of 117 clubs: seven applied clubs; 31 affiliate clubs; and 79 Member clubs. Gaze hounds in Texas was approved at the recent Board Meeting for member status with the ASFA.

Vickie reports that two applied club will be moving to affiliate status. The Cirmeco dell'Etna Club of America will become Affiliate on June 8, 2008. CATCH moves to affiliate status on April 15, 2008.

The Board has recently accepted a proposal that will affect Membership. The Accelerated Affiliation Program has been implemented to allow groups of experienced lure coursers who want to establish a club and gain ASFA affiliation to do so in a timeframe notably shorter than that in the standard affiliation process. In order to be granted accelerated affiliation, a club must comply with the following:

- (a) Be in existence for no less than 90 days; existence begins from the time the club is established as a club with a ratified constitution.
- (b) Evidence that 5 or more of the club membership is comprised of individual members with no less than five years lure coursing experience not only as competitors but also as trial officials. Rosters with less than 10 individual members will not be considered.
- (c) Make proper application to the ASFA Membership Chair. Applications must be accompanied by payment of dues, the Club's active constitution and by-laws and the current club membership roster. Moreover, rosters must indicate by asterisks club members who have active membership in other established ASFA applied, affiliated or member clubs in the same region as the applying club.
- (d) Present two letters of recommendation for accelerated affiliation: one from the Regional Director; one from an ASFA Member Club in the same Region as the applying club.
- (e) Obtain an approved date from the Scheduling Chair for the holding one fun lure field trial, following all current rules and procedures, except that a fun lure field trial and an all-breed field trial can be held on the same day.
- (f) Hold at least one fun trial, following all ASFA running rules except as noted in (g). All entry forms, judges sheets, record sheets, and a copy of the premium list for each trial must be forwarded to the Records Coordinator in accordance with Ch. VI.
- (g) The following rules apply to FUN TRIALS ONLY:
  - a. No per capita fee is submitted with the fun trial results.
  - b. Judges need not be recognized nor licensed by the ASFA, but there must be two judges for each breed.
  - c. "NO ASFA POINTS SHALL BE AWARDED AT THIS FUN TRIAL" shall be printed on the front cover of the fun trial premium list and entry form.
  - d. Provision of a Singles stake is encouraged. (See Singles stake rules - Ch. V, Sec. 8.)
  - e. Ribbon colors (if offered). (See Ch. VII, Sec. 2.)
  - f. A copy of the approved premium list must be sent to the Membership Chair and to the appropriate Regional Director.

If, after meeting these requirements, a club applying for accelerated affiliation is approved by the ASFA Membership Committee, affiliate status will be granted on a probationary status for one year. If the club hosts lure trials without incident or issue, the probationary status will conclude on the anniversary date of accelerated affiliation and the club will be considered a standard affiliate club. If, however, a club does not receive the approval of

the Membership Committee after meeting these requirements, the Committee may require the club to apply via the standard affiliation process.

Vickie concludes her report by reminding clubs to pay their annual dues. She feels that sending out the renewal forms with the ACoD information has been beneficial as she has received a large number of renewals already. Clubs have a grace period past the deadline to pay dues, but it obviously is better to get them in on time.

If fanciers are giving a fun trial, please do as much as possible to run finals and best of breed run-offs. The intent is to run a fun trial as like a real trial as possible, and Vickie enlists the Regional Directors' help on this front.

**G) Forms (Standerford)**

Marilyn indicates that until this most recent Board Meeting, all the ASFA forms were current and up-to-date on the website. She encourages people to go out to the website and look around. If you cannot find what you are looking for, email the [webmaster@asfa.org](mailto:webmaster@asfa.org). Marilyn reminds the ACoD that she will be adding the Cirnechi to the judge's sheet, so look for the latest version on the website before summer.

She does have regional decals and the AFSA breed logo decals with her at the ACoD as well as patches and rulebooks. Marilyn encourages clubs to order forms early for trials, the earlier the better because orders are not processed until the weekend after they are placed. Allow two to three weeks for delivery of forms.

**H) Website (Standerford)**

Marilyn reports that ASFA has a new webmaster. Jean Hampton of Florida has been working diligently to get the ASFA website updated though she is not quite there. Together, she and Marilyn have prioritized the updates and are making changes one step at a time. Marilyn asks that if individuals note errors on the website to email her at [webmaster@asfa.org](mailto:webmaster@asfa.org) and she will address them as soon as possible.

In addition, Marilyn reports that the rulebook in PDF on the website is current. It has all the current rules through January 1, 2009. It also reflects all Constitutional revisions through this same date. The operational policy changes are up on the site via hyperlinks, and delegates should have received them in print with their FAN as well.

**I) Field Trial Improvement (Whritenour)**

Rich is not present at the ACoD but a report is presented by Scott Hurlbert. He indicates that Field Trial Improvement has tried to open up communication with the fancy through email group lists. They are looking for input and feedback from the fancy at large.

At the recent Board Meeting, the Board directed FTI to investigate two possible ideas and develop proposals accordingly. The first is the concept of a handlers' meeting. Scott says that FTI will produce a guideline-like proposal that sketches out a venue or occasion for introducing newcomers to the sport of coursing and the trial environment. The second idea is a lure operator's seminar guideline. The Committee will attempt to give parameters for establishing and conducting a quality educational experience for those interested in learning more about lure operation. The intent is not to dictate what one does or doesn't do when lure operating but rather to establish a uniform setting and a core curriculum that should be covered when offering a seminar.

In connection with improving field trials, Jeff invites C.J. Fox to share with delegates copies of the official American Whippet Club guide for correctly wicketing Whippets. C.J. Fox explains that the AWC performance director has illustrated the correct procedures in a helpful handout. Marilyn Standerford indicates that the handout also will be made available on the ASFA site. C.J. welcomes question from the floor.

**J) Finance and Budget (Roush)**

Before yielding the floor to Gary, Jeff shares with the ACoD that the ASFA will not print the FAN in its current form after December 31, 2010. He explains that the Board has examined the general financial market, observing that many newspapers, magazines and other hard-print communications are either downsizing or closing their doors all together. Such economic conditions combined with the fact that printing and mailing costs continue to go up compel the Board to respond. Standing in counterpoint to the increasing difficulties associated with print materials is the increasing ease associated with alternate communication means. Specifically, electronic media is not only timelier, it is more cost efficient and more readily accessible. This reality, in short, makes the discontinuation of FAN in print form an obligatory action.

He notifies all that a task force has been established to investigate and propose alternatives, and this initiative will be co-chaired by Gary Roush and Michael Ferris. Also included are Denny Baker, Ping Pirrung, Lori Coulson, Sean McMichael, Russ Jacobs and Dana Moran. The latter two members are intended to bring the running rules perspectives to the task force as both are on the Rules Evaluation Committee.

Given the 21 month time period left for hardcopy FAN, the task force has been asked to investigate and respond with recommendations within 90 days. This means at some time in July, the Board will hear the task force's suggestions, develop a course of action and hopefully shortly thereafter have some news to announce. The Board understands that it has obligations to subscribers, and it will continue to publish until it has a viable alternative to offer. Beginning immediately, ASFA will no longer sell two-year subscriptions to FAN, and for those who recently purchased a two-year subscription, ASFA expects to return the appropriate portion of the subscription price when the hardcopy era is closed.

The Board understands the desire for and the satisfaction of having that hardcopy history in hand, and for this reason one of the alternatives that it will consider is an annual that can preserve that sought after history. In addition, it may look at an e-zine styled FAN or a FAN on disk. Right now, the future is a white-board. Jeff indicates that he is willing to take questions on this subject. None come forward.

Gary addresses the budget proposed for the 2009 year, January to December. See Item D below.

**ITEM D: American Sighthound Field Association Budget - Year Ended December 31, 2009**

	<b>2009</b>	
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
ACoD	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Forms	2,500	2,300
Per Capita	45,600	
Invitationals:		
International	10,000	8,000

## Annual Convention of Delegates

American Sighthound Field Association  
 March 28-29, 2009  
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Regionals	2,000	1,000
Membership	9,000	
FAN	11,000	19,500
Miscellaneous	2,700	3,200
Internet initiative		5,000
Board Meetings		5,500
Regional Directors		2,500
Records		28,500
Committees		7,000
Trophy Refurbishment		300
Rule Book Reprint		-
Totals	\$ 87,300	\$ 87,300
Recap:		
Income	\$ 87,300	
Expense	(87,300)	
Net	\$ -	

Gary hits what he feels are the highlights in this discussion but prefaces this with his willingness to stop and discuss any item that is of interest to the delegates. For ACoD this year, Gary projects a break-even outcome. In per capita, Gary is setting the bar for 2009 at 95% of the 2008 per capita. This is a 5% decrease following the trend from 2006 to 2007. The International Invitational is entirely the ASFA's risk this year. We will have to see 150 dogs per day to hit our numbers, and there is no guarantee this will happen. For FAN, ASFA projects a loss of \$8,500 despite this morning's glowing report, and Gary pauses to explain how he arrives at this number. There are two categories of revenue for FAN: subscription revenue and advertisement revenue. He projects advertisement revenue to remain the same as last year based on the idea that the product published continues to be a high-quality, timely publication. For subscription revenue, however, the future is not so bright. Gary considers the existing subscription list and determines how many subscriptions are due to renew in 2009. Using these numbers, he determines that renewing subscription income will be \$8,500. On the expense side, Gary uses the \$18,000 that it took to publish four issues of FAN in 2008 and adds a 10% printing cost increase to arrive at a budget of \$19,500 for 2009. Adding anticipated subscription to anticipated advertisement revenue and then subtracting the anticipated expenses, FAN produces a \$8,500 loss for ASFA. As Jeff said earlier, ASFA cannot afford to keep doing this.

Gary jumps to Board Meetings and points out that the Board will have only one face-to-face meeting this year. In fact, they had it immediately before the ACoD convened. He suggests that the savings that ASFA enjoys from eliminating a second face-to-face Board Meeting will be used to improve and expand the ASFA website. Under this proposed budget, then, the Board is striving for a break-even year in 2009. Gary assures that we have enough of a pad in the bank now to handle some limited risks and At this time in 2007, we did not have any pad at all and were in a terribly vulnerable position.

Russ Jacobs from the floor asks about an allocation for the rulebook reprint. None appears on this budget. Jeff speaks to Russ' concerns, and confirms that the Board has already arranged to move forward with a reprint of the rulebook with a date of January 1, 2010. Whether the expense for this is booked to 2009 or to 2010 will depend on the financial status of the organization at the end of 2009.

Delegates have suggestions. One inquires whether the ASFA would sell the interior cover of the rulebook for advertising for a specified sum. Gary suggests that for \$2500, he is certain the Board would entertain the idea. Another delegate offers a referral to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) for print on demand services. Gary welcomes the information.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposed budget as the official 2009 ASFA budget.

**K) Archives (Lipps)**

Jeff reports that there is no report to give.

**L) Computer (Baker)**

Denny reports that the computer committee has been busy this past year. To begin, they looked into banner ads as directed by the ACoD last year and reports that the committee found the ads to be too intrusive for too little financial effect. [www.asfa.org](http://www.asfa.org) is, by relative terms, a low traffic site, and the committee recommends abandoning this idea.

In addition, computer committee has been converting two databases: membership and policies. Both seem to be progressing satisfactorily with the membership database proving a bit more difficulty than policies.

Perhaps most significantly, the Computer Committee has had to locate a new records programmer as Bob Guerette was diagnosed with terminal cancer. After conducting a search and limited interviews, Joe Shoemaker was selected for the job. Denny takes a moment to thank those on her search committee for their work: Mike Ferris, Victor Whitlock, and Lori Coulson.

The Board at its most recent meeting has tasked the Computer Committee with investigating the possibility of adding a lure coursing trial entry service to our website.

**M) Policy Compilation (Baker)**

Denny Baker has a single policy to present to the ACoD.

Operation Policy #368: In order for a hound to receive a Top 20 Plaque, the hound needs to satisfy at least one of the following three criteria: 1) has competed in at least six trials; 2) has faced competition; or 3) has won best in field.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept Operational Policy 368 as presented.

**N) Long Range Planning (Ferris)**

Michael Ferris indicates that this committee was very pleasant in addition to being very productive. He ranks it among the most positive experiences he has had during his work-tenure with the organization. The committee approach was blank-sheet style, wherein it threw out ideas and watched to see which of these stuck.

**Intermediate and Introductory titles:** One huge advantage our competition (AKC) holds over ASFA is the Junior Courser title. While the ASFA Fancy (including the Board) may scoff at what seems, on the surface, such a meaningless title, the JC is the golden carrot that is dangled in front of newcomers to lure coursing. Being able to attain a lure coursing title in a single day or single weekend is a big attraction to some people, and ASFA has no equivalent program in place by which to compete. ASFA does have, in LRP's opinion, a more valuable set of titles as they are deemed more difficult to attain than AKC's.

Rather than cheapening these existing titles by making them easier to attain, LRP discussed complementing the existing ASFA titles by offering two new titles. The first of these titles would be called the Junior Field Championship (JFCh). Hounds that meet half the requirements of the Field Championship (50 points, 1 first placement over competition) would be granted the JFCh title. The second additional title would be the Senior Field Championship (SFCh), which would be granted hounds with a FCh title that have met half the requirements to the LCM title (150 points, 2 first placements over competition). The idea behind these intermediate titles is to provide incentive and motivation for the Fancy, especially newcomers, to continue running their hounds in ASFA lure coursing. The requirements for our existing titles can look quite daunting to some. Providing some incentives along the way just might keep people interested in ASFA. This language has been forwarded to Rules Evaluation Committee for further development.

**Singles titles:** Also discussed by the LRP was the idea of offering some sort of title or recognition for hounds that run in the Singles Stake. Again, the idea here is to keep people involved in ASFA and encourage them to continue entering their hound(s) in our trials. Singles stakes titles might serve to open up the first (and only) title-awarding coursing venue to the segment of the purebred Sighthound population with conformation disqualifications (i.e., ridgeless Rhodesians, blue-eyed and/or oversized Whippets, etc.); give occasion for timid or aggressive Sighthounds to compete safely and earn titles of proficiency for the skills they demonstrate in isolation from other hounds, and to maximize the potential of the Singles stake, converting it from an expensive, singular practice into a frequented, competitive stake that captures regular and repeat entry of hounds that would otherwise participate intermittently and/or briefly. This language, too, has been forwarded to Rules Evaluation Committee for further development.

**CLC title:** In LRP, there was some discussion on offering a program that could possibly allow ASFA to compete against AKC's Junior Courser Test. The proposed new program, called the Certified Lure Courser, would grant that title to a hound that successfully competes in Singles and subsequently is certified to compete in the Open Stake. This is a title that can be achieved in a single day or a single weekend and would go a long way to keeping new people involved in ASFA lure coursing. This idea has been returned to LRP for further development.

**DCh Title:** One niche of lure coursers has yet to find a space in either AKC or ASFA that adequately recognizes, challenges, and promotes their unique category of competitive hounds. This niche is the bench-titled lure courser and LRP thinks that ASFA will do well to create a pronounced and honored place in its performance program for this uniquely versatile group of serious lure coursers. It is true that the ASFA presently recognizes the "Dual Champion" lure courser who has attained its AKC bench championship and, at a minimum, its ASFA Field Championship title. To receive a certificate honoring this achievement, a hound's owner must solicit it from the Records Coordinator and provide a copy of the bench title certificate. To say the least, the appropriate honor due to such a hound is significantly diminished when it must be requested by the recipient's owner. In the spirit of recognizing the "Dual Champion," some suggestions were made on how to improve and expand what ASFA currently has in place, and they are summarized here.

- Relocate Dual Champion information to the rulebook
- Expand recognized bench champions to organizations outside of AKC

- Create permanent prefix title of Dual Champion (DCh)
- Allow for better tracking of Dual Champions in our records program
- Automatically forward Dual Champion certificates to owners of hounds
- Publish ASFA DCh recipients in FAN or on the website
- Establish non-regular stake "Bench Champion Stake," similar to Breeder/Kennels Stakes
- Introduce and promote a Bowen system for Dual Champions

This language has been referred to Rules Evaluation Committee for further development

**On-Line Entry System via ASFA website:** Currently, exhibitors are permitted a restricted form of entering a trial through electronic means. Entries can be faxed provided payment is received at or around the same time. Not all clubs offer this option, but word from those who do is generally positive. LRP discussed the possibility of hosting a field trial entry service on the ASFA website for those clubs that wish to participate.

Here is one way this might work:

- 1) ASFA sets up user database where both individuals and clubs will register; these accounts will be password protected. The individual information will include all personal information found on the entry form (name, address, etc), but not hound information. The individual's email address shall be the same as their PayPal address. Club information shall consist of club contact (preferable FTS) as well as PayPal account.
- 2) ASFA will allow clubs to submit their premium lists to the ASFA website (we will most likely want to limit file sizes). ASFA will post the premium along with an "Enter Trial" button.
- 3) Individuals wishing to enter a trial will login, and then be taken to an "electronic entry form" where the trial information and the personal information will already be filled out. Next, they will enter the hound's information on the form.
- 4) Upon completion of the form, the individual will click a "Submit Entry" button, and the entry will go to the club's contact. At the same time, PayPal will authorize payment from the individual to the club's designated account.
- 5) An email confirmation is sent to the individual for each hound entered.
- 6) Individual shows up at trial and runs hound(s).

Obviously there will be cost associated with the setup and implementation of such a plan, and the idea has been referred to the Computer Committee for research and consideration.

**Lure Operator Seminars:** Presently, ASFA has a program in place for the training of prospective judges, and, in recent years, we have developed a manual for Huntmasters. Both of these programs are very important as well as necessary. However, a glaring omission in ASFA's training repertoire is a program for training new lure operators. Safety is always the number one concern when we are on the field; thus, the importance of ensuring that the most qualified individual is running the lure becomes very obvious.

LRP recognizes that a Certified Lure Operator program was attempted previously by ASFA in the mid to late 1990's, and that it failed for a couple of reasons, namely the liability introduced by granting this certification and also the question of who is actually qualified to give instruction as well as bless the prospective lure operator.

Taking a different path, rather than certifying people to run the lure, LRP asks that ASFA consider developing a training program similar to what the Judges Committee has come up with for training new judging. Ideally, these seminars would be both informational and hands-on, and they would offer prospective lure operators (or ones in need of practice) the opportunity to run hounds in a variety of situations. Clubs would certainly be encouraged to send their up and coming lure operators to these seminars.

This concept has been forwarded to Field Trial Improvement for further development.

**ASFA Annual:** As Jeff indicated, we will not see the FAN as we've known it after 2010. But the fancy does not wish to lose a record of our history, however, and suggest the Annual as a possibility. It would replace the need for a historical book and has been given to the task force for further consideration.

**ASFA Individual Numbers:** ASFA presently accepts hound registrations from a number of bodies, including AKC, UKC, FCI, etc. And, ASFA allows exhibitors to enter field trials using whatever valid registration number a hound may possess. In an effort to simplify entering a trial and recording results, it is proposed that ASFA distribute their own registration number for the purpose of entry based on the proper submittal of a hound's registration papers, similar to what is done in the racing world. The process is envisioned to go something like this:

At a hound's first trial, the owner submits a copy of the hound's registration papers, just as is currently being done. The hound is listed as Pending #, and the trial records are sent in as such. The ASFA Records Coordinator will then enter the hound's information into the Hound Database and will be returned a ASFA Registration Number (e.g. IW-264 or W-2129), which is then forwarded to the owner. That new number is then used for each subsequent entry of that hound into an ASFA field trial.

Converting to the ASFA Registration Number would greatly simplify the recording of field trial results as only one consistent form of registration numbers would be used. Additionally, the entry form need only be updated one time to reflect this change, and that area of the form would not need to be changed again, even with the acceptance of new registries. On top of this, ASFA could decide to charge, say, \$2 per registration as the racing organizations do, making this an easy way to generate some revenue.

This idea has been forwarded to Computer Committee, Records Committee and Forms Committee for further development.

Mike concludes the Long Range Planning report by summarizing the new tasks that have been assigned the committee at this most recent Board Meeting. LRP has been asked to develop a proposal for a Lurcher/Longdog Stake as well as develop a proposal for advancing an ASFA conformation match to compliment our performance competitions.

## **O) Public Relations (Birchfield)**

Gayle Kytta has agreed to chair the Public Relations committee, and while no report is to be made today, look for more news from Gayle in the future. Keeping in the spirit of the Regional Directors as ASFA salesmen, all RDs have been put on the placed on the public relations committee. Jeff promises that we are going to get more aggressive in marketing and promoting this organization rather than sitting in any defensive crouch.

## Top 20 Plaques

The Chair of Public Relations hands out ASFA provided plaques to the following #1 hounds. If the owners are not present, plaques are given to the care of the Regional Director for the owner's region for future delivery.

#1 AFGHAN HOUND	<b>Lady Bug:</b> Am/Can/UKC Ch Charsada Dreams Can Come True, FCh, Can FCh, SC (B.Burns)
	<b>Malone:</b> Can/UKC Ch Charsada Dream No Small Dreams FCh,Can FCh (J.Martin/B.Burns )
#1 AZAWAKH	<b>Ahzi:</b> Al Haras Wingo, FCh (E MacMillan)
#1 BASENJI	<b>Houdini:</b> Thor's Jukebox Hero FCh (J.Brader)
#1 BORZOI	<b>Iris:</b> Tsarytsin Wild Iris Starrunner FCh (M.& E.Obregon)
#1 CIRNECO	<b>Dawn:</b> Cy'Era Dawn FCC (D.Poole/M.L.Prieto)
#1 GREYHOUND	<b>Talley:</b> Cashel's Talley Ho LCM (R.Roder)
	<b>Splash:</b> FC Lakilanni Walk On Water LCM2 (S.Peak/L.Pekarski/L.Soutar)
#1 IBIZAN HOUND	<b>Butch:</b> DevillezTryinToGetTheFeelingAg LCM (R.DeVillez)
#1 I. WOLFHOUND	<b>Fern:</b> Gralyn Autumn Red Fern FCh (L.Tucker/M.Corbett)
#1 ITALIAN GREYHOUND	<b>Jane:</b> Izat Blackacre See Jane Run SC (K.A.Thayne/P.Carroll)
#1 MAYGAR AGAR	<b>Fecni:</b> Bakvagta Fecni (S.Barron/T.Koler)
#1 PERUVEAN INCA ORCHID	<b>Zorra:</b> Willabe Zorra (M.Reimer)
#1 PHARAOH HOUND	<b>Dinja:</b> Ch Zafis Dinja FCh,SC (J.Butterworth)
#1 PORTUGESE PODENGO	<b>Ouiser:</b> Maui de Retrouvaille (WM A.McLeod)
#1 RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK	<b>Valentine:</b> DC Bridon's From theHeartofRidgelea (J.Cramer/D.Berlin)
#1 SALUKI	<b>Marquis:</b> FC Windrush Tika's Far Niente (K.& J.Lipps)
#1 SCOTTISH DEERHOUND	<b>Jane:</b> Ch Lyonhil Jane Doe SC (R.Lyons)
#1 SLOUGHI	<b>Mujiir:</b> Mujiir Shi'Rayan (Dr.D.Crapon de Caprona)
#1 WHIPPET	<b>Oreo:</b> FC WGASA Oreo Dublestuf LCM7,SC (N.& D.Ewing Jr)
#1 Sighthound	<b>Oreo:</b> FC WGASA Oreo Dublestuf LCM7,SC (N.& D.Ewing Jr)

## P) Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws (M Ferris)

Michael Ferris reports that the committee had no assignments over this past year.

**Q) Amendments to the *Running Rules and Field Procedures for Lure Field Trials* (R Jacobs)**

Russ Jacobs presents the following rules change proposals. He establishes that in the past, the ACoD has established a special rule of order that limits discussion on a rules change proposal to two minutes and alternates between pro and con comments. A motion is solicited and received.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** as a special rule of order, discussion of rules change proposals will be limited to two minutes and comments offered will alternate in succession pro and con.

Russ takes a moment to thank his committee members Dana Moran, John Parker, Jane Schreiber and Deann Britton.

New wording is underlined; deleted wording is struck out. Explanations for the proposal are included, along with REC recommendations. THESE ARE PROPOSALS ONLY; those that receive a favorable vote will be considered a change in the Running Rules and Field Procedures for Lure Field Trials. Such proposals will be published in the first available issue of FAN after the 2009 ACoD, and will go into effect on January 1, 2010.

- **New Ch. V Sec 8:** As per Ch I Sec 3 of the ASFA Running Rules, Clubs shall refund entry fees for hounds with breed disqualifications, hounds determined to be lame at the time of roll call, bitches in season, hounds disqualified prior to the trial, or those which do not meet the requirements for entry in an invitational (but only if the owner/agent notifies the field secretary of such ineligibility prior to the completion of roll call.) Clubs shall publish in the premium list any other circumstances in which refunds will be given, or state that there are none.  
Renumber subsequent sections

- **Ch. IV Sec 8:**  
(n) Hounds not present at the time of roll call will be scratched.  
new (o) Any circumstances (other than those listed in Ch I Sec 3) in which refunds will be given, or a clear statement that there are no such additional circumstances .  
Renumber subsequent sections.

*Effect: Gathers together in one place the ASFA refund policy, and requires the Clubs to publish any additional refund policies they may have.*

*Reason: Clarifies the existing refund policies, and publicizes to entrants any additional circumstances in which their entries may be refunded.*

**The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.**

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposal as presented

- **Chapter II Section 3. Field Clerk**  
~~3. Shall be stationed on the field and shall promptly collect the score sheets from the judges upon the completion of the judging of each course. It is strongly recommended that, whenever possible, a field clerk be placed on the field to collect paperwork. The prompt collection after each course allows the field clerk to check for the judge's signature, correct addition and promotes a smoother flow of paperwork.~~

*Effect: Changes the current requirement that a field clerk be placed on the field to a strong recommendation.*

*Reason: Some Clubs do not have sufficient manpower to place a clerk on the field; the new rule allows for such cases.*

**The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.**

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposal as presented

▪ **Chapter III, Section 10**

Section 10. Placing of winners shall be decided on the basis of qualities evidenced by: enthusiasm, follow, speed, agility and endurance in scoring the hounds. Judges shall score in whole numbers only, and shall be governed by the following system:

Enthusiasm.....	15 pts.
Follow.....	15 pts.
Speed.....	25 pts.
Agility.....	25 pts.
Endurance.....	20 pts.
.....	Total: 100 pts.
Less: Pre-slip penalty.....	1 to -10 pts.

(from each judge). When a pre-slip occurs, each judge shall levy a penalty of between 1 and 10 points for that course. A pre-slip may be called by the huntmaster at the beginning of the course, at a mid-field re-start of the same course or both. Each judge shall levy a penalty for each pre-slip. The pre-slip penalty shall not be carried over in the case where a no course is called on the course in progress.

*Effect: Brings Operational Policy # 41 into the Rulebook proper.*

*Reason: This is a long-standing Policy, and bringing it into the Rulebook will make it easier to find.*

**The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.**

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposal as presented

▪ **Ch V. Sec 10 Best in Field**

new (g): When an ineligible hound wins Best in Field, no Best in Field will be awarded.  
Renummer subsequent sections.

*Effect: Brings Operational Policy #63 into the Rulebook proper.*

*Reason: This is a long-standing Policy, and bringing it into the Rulebook will make it easier to find.*

**The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.**

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposal as presented

▪ **Ch. VII Sec 1**

new last sentence: When an ineligible hound receives a placement, all other placements will stand.

*Effect: Brings Operational Policy #65 into the Rulebook proper.*

*Reason: This is a long-standing Policy, and bringing it into the Rulebook will make it easier to find.*

**The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.**

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposal as presented

▪ **Ch. II Sec. 2**

new 11: Is responsible for insuring that the course layout is consistent with the published course plan.

*Effect: Makes the Field Chairman ultimately responsible for correctness of course layout.*

*Reason: Clarifies who is ultimately responsible for course layout.*

**The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.**

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposal as presented

▪ **Ch I Sec 5**

new last sentences: A copy of such policies can be found at [www.asfa.org](http://www.asfa.org). When questions arise, policies as well as rules should be consulted.

*Effect: To provide a place in the Running Rules to direct coursers to policies.*

*Reason: To remind coursers that policies should be consulted, and how to find them.*

**The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.**

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the proposal as presented

**R) Excellent Performance Awards (Kytta)**

Gayle Kytta reminds everyone that nominations for the EPA are made by the Regional Directors and then nominees are considered by the Regional Directors Committee and the award is granted.

This year, two clubs were nominated. Gayle indicates that it was a very close vote but the award goes to a club from Region VI: OKIGO.

**Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees**

Jeff says that he wants to take a moment before moving into the Ad Hoc committees to remind the ACoD that next year, 2010, is an officer election year. Accordingly, it is his job to appoint a committee to consider individuals and assemble a slate of nominated officers. For the year 2010, Christie Beetz will Chair the nominating committee while Denise Como and Kay Nierengarden will serve on it. Kathy Nelson is an alternate and will serve only if needed.

In addition, Jeff takes a moment to make the Board's recommendations for the ADHOC committee compilations. The committees are recommended as indicated below (chairs indicated by underline):

- **ACoD Site Selection:** Vickie Jacobs, Mike Ferris

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the committee as proposed

- **Advisory Committee on Animal Issues:** Jane Schreiber, R. Lynn Shell, Vickie Jacobs and Jeff Lipps  
**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the committee as proposed
  - **Convention of Delegates Planning Committee:** 2010: Vickie Jacobs and Christie Beetz; 2011: Vickie Jacobs and Marilyn Standerford  
**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the committee as proposed
  - **Gary Forrester Award:** Jane Schreiber, Camilee Mendicino, Kathy Nelson and Christie Beetz  
**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the committee as proposed
  - **Lure Coursing Hall of Fame:** Les Pekarski, Mike Hussey, Shirri Peak, Leigh Littleton, Elaine McMichael, Dean Wright, Christie Beetz, Tracy Luty and Kathy Lipps  
**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the committee as proposed
  - **Constitutional Revision Committee:** Michael Ferris, Jeff Lipps, Russ Jacobs, Jack Downing, Dana Moran, Karen Rockwell  
**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to accept the committee as proposed
- a. ACoD Selection (M Ferris/V Jacobs)

Vickie Jacobs first of all thanks the Region and Bob Jordan for their hospitality at this year's ACoD. They provided the warm reception to delegates on Friday night, and Bob has helped secure the podium for free, the hospitality room for free, and more. He has just really jumped in there and has lent a big helping hand. Thanks also to Bobby Lutz who found the restaurant for tonight; to Dana Moran who did the name tags; to Lori Coulson who did all the copies and to Jane Schreiber for getting the guest speakers.

- 2010 – San Jose, CA

Next year, ACoD will be in San Jose, California on March 27-28, 2010. Vickie explains that the reason ACoD is always the last week of March is because this is the last weekend of the year for Winter rates. The next week begins the Summer promotions which come at a much higher expense. Also, beginning in April, many national breed clubs begin their specialty season.

The host hotel is the Doubletree, a four star hotel in the heart of Silicone Valley and only ¼ mile from the San Jose International Airport and 45 minutes from San Francisco's International Airport. It features six restaurants on its property, and the room rate is currently set at \$99 per night for a suite. Vickie plans to re-negotiate prices for the rooms as we grow nearer the convention date as the declining economy may present an opportunity to obtain reduced nightly rates. Christie and Vickie are still looking for a place to do a fun activity on Saturday night. Vickie will be visiting this area in May 2008. More information will follow.

- 2011 – Omaha, NE

The following year the ACoD will be in the mid-west: Omaha, Nebraska. Marilyn Standerford has been looking into hotels including the Marriott, the Embassy Suites and the Doubletree hotels. All of these are within a few miles of the airport. Omaha itself offers the new NCAA ballpark, the "Old District" and more. The dates have not

been set for that one, but attention will be turned to it as soon as this ACoD is complete.

b. Animal Advisory (Schreiber)

The ACoD delegates are audience on Saturday to a well-organized, informative presentation by two politically active animal-owner rights representatives. Jeff offers some context for the relevance of animal legislation to ASFA and yields the floor to Jane Schreiber for introductions of our guests. As Animal Advisory Chair, Jane is very familiar with the struggles and the threats confronting animal ownership around the country and advises fanciers to report any urgent news about animal legislation to their Regional Directors.

Jane indicates that she first encountered our speakers in Virginia last year. Providing some background, Jane informs that speaker Alice Harrington is the Secretary and a Legislative Liaison for the Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders; she is also President of the Blue Ridge Hound and Sheepdog Club and a breeder of conformation Shelties. She participates in dog shows and in agility. She is retired from the federal government where she was 30 years in the Governor's accountability office. In her youth, she showed horses. Dogs and horses have always been a significant part of her life and she is committed to making sure animals remain in her life and yours in the future. Jane goes on to say Sharyn Hutchens is a Legislative Liaison for the Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders, a member of the American Whippet Club, the National Animal Interest Alliance, the Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, and the Scoville Kennel Club. She has been involved in the dog fancy since the early 1970s, first in Collies and then in Whippets. She has been a writer, editor and contract coordinator for a non-profit organization in South Carolina. Sharyn and her husband Walt met on a dog email-list. She has worked for most of a decade to help protect the rights of dog owners and breeders against increasingly hostile legislation as well as to educate the fancy about the threat of the animal rights movement. They own "Pet Law List" email list and website as well as "Federal/State Pet Law List" as well as the 3,500 member "Pet Dog List" where dog owners can get advice about attitudes on any topic relating to dog ownership and care. Jane welcomes both speakers and the presentation follows.

On Sunday of ACoD, Jane expresses that she hopes everyone enjoyed the presentation made by Alice and Sharyn. Please be sure to check the website for legislative alerts and utilize a phone tree in situations where action is really needed. Be informed and as proactive as is possible.

c. Gary Forrester Committee (Schreiber)

Jeff as an introduction to the Committee Chair, applauds Jane Schreiber's continued good shepherding of this committee as its members help her with the heavy lifting of making sure nominations come in and that a suitable nominee is selected as recipient of this most prestigious ASFA award. He yields the floor.

Jane recaps who the ideal recipient of the Gary Forrester Award will be. She explains the process for nominating, selecting and awarding this distinction. Jane reminds delegates that most often the approach to revealing the recipient of the Gary Forrester is drawn out, building appropriate suspense and seriousness. This year, she forgoes the theater and announces with appropriate gravity that Greg and Carolyn Mountan are the 2009 recipients.

Jeff reads aloud their nomination. Carolyn and Greg Mountan began coursing in the mid 1970's and continued to course their dogs until March 2009. They always produced sound and keen dogs, and many people are lucky enough to be owners of dogs of their breeding.

The Mountans were founding members of Tri-State Sighthound Club which was founded around 1977. Carolyn was the club's secretary and club delegate from its inception. Greg was TSSC's President and was either been an officer or on the Board of TSSC most of the time. They were enthusiastic supporters of lure coursing, encouraging many of the owners of their puppies to bring their dogs to coursing events as well as providing knowledge and encouragement to anyone wishing to learn about lure coursing. They contributed to every trial they attended by either helping out or helping others that may not have had very much experience.

As TSSC members, they attended every trial and put an incredible amount of time and effort into the planning of an event: from being a member of the Field Committee to planning the incidentals of the day. TSSC would not be a vital club without their constant participation. Through the years, health issues cropped up, but both of them continued to give of themselves and their effort to lure coursing. They were an inspiration to many. Carolyn was an ASFA all breed judge since the early 1980's, and Greg was very knowledgeable about machinery and how it works. He could spot a problem a mile away and could fix it before the issue became unmanageable. They always had a "huge medical kit" they brought with them to all trials. They were always willing to offer assistance to any dog that may be injured on the field. They are our "EMTs" on the field-- Carolyn was a licensed Animal Health Technician. The emergency assistance provided to the dog and the comfort offered the owners as well as their generosity was one of many examples of the Mountans' generous contributions to lure coursing. To sum it up the Mountans' selflessly contributed to lure coursing over the years even when their personal circumstances have been monumental. They were givers and never expected anything in return. They were an asset not only to TSSC but to ASFA as well. Greg Mountan passed away in December of 2008. Carolyn in March 2009. The ASFA will miss them greatly.

Ping Pirrung receives the Gary Forrester Award on behalf of the Mountans.

d. Lure Coursing Hall of Fame (Pekarski)

With respect to Hall of Fame Committee, Dean reports that they met and revisited the guidelines that currently require 10 nominations each year. To meet this requirement, the committee added some late nominees but did not have time to secure biographies for some. Dean would like to ask the convention to allow some changes to the guidelines. The first request addresses this verbiage: "The committee will then select ten hounds to be voted on by delegates convening at the ensuing ACoD. In the event that there are not at least ten hounds nominated by clubs, the Hall of Fame Committee will nominate however many additional hounds are necessary to bring the total to ten."

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED** to modify the Hall of Fame guidelines to read, "The committee ~~will then select ten hounds~~ may have ten nominations to be voted on by delegates convening at the ensuing ACoD. In the event that there are not at least ten hounds nominated by clubs, the Hall of Fame Committee ~~will~~ may nominate however many additional hounds as necessary to bring the total to ten.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to change the deadline date for submission of Hall of Fame nominations to January 31 of each year.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** Move operational policy 297 relating to Hall of Fame to the Hall of Fame Guidelines

This year, one human Hall of Fame nominee returns to the ballot for consideration. Jack McManus this year is elected to the Hall of Fame.

In regard to hounds, three return to the ballot from 2008 in addition to seven first time nominees. These are Seker (P), Micki (Ba), Baillie (IW), Koka (Ba), Kimba (RR), Dail (W), Piggy (IB), Mecca (S), Dino (W) and Sligo (W). Piggy and Mecca are removed from the ballot since they did not submit information packets.

After balloting is counted, Seker, Dail and Baillie are inducted to the Hall of Fame.

**S) Special Guests - ISWS**

Jeff tells the ACoD that he recently had a conversation with Hutsie Brown, President of the International Silken Windhound Society. In the last few years, the group has done a great deal to enhance their performance activities including racing and coursing. Jeff, at the request of Hutsie, agreed to make time available to ISWS to allow a couple of representatives active in ISWS to give information about their breed, to answer some questions and to interact with ACoD delegates. It is no secret that Silkens are interested in enhancing their lure coursing program and have singled out the ASFA as the leader in the area. Allowing a presentation on the breed is consistent with ASFA's past practices when working with a breed that has a desire to be a part of what we do. Two delegates are here today, then, from ISWS: Joyce Chin, Board Member of ISWS and R Lynn Shell, ISWS Registrar. Jeff says R Lynn can explain far better than he the registry, how it operates and what their long-term plans are.

Joyce indicates that she and R Lynn are asked here on short-notice to give a presentation about their breed, but they intend in this time to briefly go over what their breed is, what their goals are, what their registry is, and to recount their performance history to date. Joyce states that the Silken Windhound is a modern sporting Sighthound that started out in Austin, Texas in the mid 1980s. They were founded by a breeder who had a background in performance Borzois and Scottish Deerhounds. The foundation dogs for the breed were Borzois (including some with Field Champions in their pedigrees) combined with about equal amount of a small Sighthound-type dog which originated from Whippet and Shetland Sheepdog crosses. The Silkens also included a smaller number of Whippets and in brief, that was the foundation of breed. Going from these dogs, the Silken breeders have really been rigorously selective for type, structure, temperament and health. The result now, decades later, is the Silken Windhound. Right now, they have their own breed club, standard, registry and studbook. Their breeders are numerous throughout the world, and they are active in performance and show events when given the opportunity. Currently, the Silken Windhound can be shown in parent club sponsored specialties and in many rare-breed venues in the United States including NCA and IBCA. They have won many Best in Shows, Reserve Best in Shows and group ribbons. Overseas, the Silken Windhound is recognized in Slovenia and shows in the Sighthound group. They have had a lot of breed-club sponsored shows and they have been held in Sweden, Germany and Finland.

The International Silken Windhound Society was founded in 1999 and is a U.S. based club currently with about 120 active individual members. 90% of these are Borzoi people. The studbook is closed and they have instituted DNA testing for all breeding Silken Windhounds as of the year 2000. This is the same year as their first National breed show. In this show, they generally have 100 dogs in conformation and around 40-42 dog in racing. ISWS has had University involvement in their breed because all of their pedigrees are DNA-backed. There are no inaccurate pedigrees because every single breeding dog must have DNA done before any of their get is registered. This

has drawn the attention of University of California of Davis, and their veterinary genetic laboratory has formed a Silken Windhound geno-project. They are using the DNA-backed pedigrees to create a trait-linkage map between dog characteristics and their genetic links. Joyce offers that the study will endeavor, for example, to track a characteristic such as flat feet through the generations and to show through genetics why a dog has flat feet. For that project, a majority of the dogs have been swabbed. ISWS has roughly 1,000 dogs in their registry at this time.

The ISWS racing program started in 2005 and took off like wildfire. Everyone wanted to participate. They have right now 204 dogs registered to race. The program is modeled closely after LGRA and ISWS offers equivalent titles also. The top Silken in 2008 earned 50 points just this past year. Joyce says that many WRA and CWA race clubs around the country will hold meets for them. In California where ISWS has the largest contingent of racing Silkens, they will see as many as 30 dogs at a meet, and they will out-number everyone but the Whippets.

The ISWS Lure Coursing program was launched only recently in 2007. They have been working slowly to get down the idea of turning. They finally have about 40-50 dogs competing in lure coursing with the largest trial entry in 2008 being 11. Joyce expects this number to increase now that Northern California is interested. This part of the country has about 50 Silkens coming out and participating in performance events.

Joyce goes on to say that the ISWS' goal in 2009 is to apply for AKC and UKC breed recognition. If they are accepted, they would be the very first American Sighthound in the Sighthound group.

Joyce yields the floor to R Lynn Shell who gives some background about her participation in dogs. She has been a Borzoi owner since 1992 and obtained her first Silken Windhound in 2001. In 2005, she took over the position of ISWS Registrar. She says she understands that there have been questions about the registry because few have encountered dogs registered with an individual registry. Dogs are typically AKC recognized, and if not, then they are FCI recognized. The ISWS registry is primarily modeled after AKC procedures with which most are familiar. For example, after a litter is born, breeders send in a litter application, and ISWS returns pre-filled, individual applications for each puppy. Each application has a unique number, and in turn, the breeder sends back to ISWS the individual registration. At this point in the process, the ISWS similarity with AKC ends. At ISWS, registration is two-tiered. Initial registration is automatically a limited registration. Dogs to be bred must be "upgraded" to full registration after the age of six months. The breeder – or a designated agent – will evaluate the dog and send in the forms to upgrade to full registration. In addition, parentage DNA testing must be done. They now use all VGL testing through UC- Davis though originally they utilized MMI testing. If a dog has not been upgraded to full registration but is bred anyway, its offspring cannot be registered. ISWS issues a registration certificate very similar to AKC. R Lynn adds that no dog can just walk up and be registered with ISWS. All dogs must have a history with the group, and they all have to be registered. She confirms that the registry has 973 dogs as of today's date, and in 2008, they had their first fifth generation litter born.

Taking questions from the floor, Joyce responds to Peter Lowe that Silken Windhounds, defined as a modern sporting hound, are clearly not designed to hunt anything. They were created to do what most modern hounds do – straight track, oval track, lure course. Very few people's hounds hunt for the pot anymore, not even for fun.

Addressing a question about genetic diversity, Joyce refers to the expertise of UC-Davis who say that Silkens are in much better shape than most breeds with respect to diversity. She explains that most breeds start out with a very small gene pool of already related dogs that are then gone on from. The Silkens' gene pool began with a diverse number of non-related separated breeds, and they were refined into a breed on a fairly recent level. Overall, they are doing pretty good. Joyce confirms again that Silkens are descendants of Borzois, Whippets and Whippet-Sheltie crosses bred by Walter Wheeler. In response to a question from the floor, she estimates that the first generation of foundation stock consisted of maybe seventeen individual dogs. The studbook was closed in 2000. Jeff Lipps asks how many hounds were in the studbook at the time it was closed.

Joyce does not know the exact number and would have to look to verify, but she is confident there were over 200 hounds.

A few anecdotes about Silken gregariousness are told as testament to their temperament. Joyce and R Lynn conclude by encouraging people to approach them at the convention. Both will be around the remainder of the day and would be happy to talk one-on-one. Jeff thanks both presenters.

ASCOD

## Annual Convention of Delegates

American Sighthound Field Association  
March 28-29, 2009  
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**Sunday, March 29, 2009**

Call to Order 8:34a (J Lipps)

### T) Roll call and seating of delegates

Club	Initials	Delegate	Present/Absent
Alamo Area Whippet Club	AAWC	Dana Moran	Present
Alamo Area Whippet Club	AAWC	Joe Hollman	Present
American Saluki Association	ASA	Jeff Lipps	Present
American Whippet Club	AWC	CJ Fox	Present
Apalachee Coursing Club	ACC	John Bruntlett	Present
Basenji Club of America	BaCOA	Russ Jacobs	Present
Borzoi Club of America	BCOA	R. Lynn Shell-Whitlock	Present
Colorado Lure Coursing Association	CLCA	Peter Lowe	Present
Coursing Hounds of the Mid Potomac	CHAMP	Edward Madden	Present
District Area Sighthounds	DASH	Bob Jordan	Present
Galveston Bay Saluki Club	GBSC	Lucia Prieto	Present
Gazehounds of New England	GONE	Clay Leslie	Present
Gazehounds of New England	GONE	Mark Zacheis	Present
Greyhound Assoc. Of North Georgia	GANG	Les Pekarski	Present
Greyhound Assoc. Of North Georgia	GANG	Shirri Peak	Present
Heartland Coursing Association	HCA	Scott Hurlbert	Present
Heartland Coursing Association	HCA	Vickie Jacobs	Present
Iowa Coursing Association	ICA	Sean McMichael	Present
Irish Wolfhound Club of America	IWCA	Mike Ferris	Present
Jersey Rag Racers Whippet Association	JRRWA	Libby Kirchener	Present
Jersey Rag Racers Whippet Association	JRRWA	Fritz Kirchener	Present
Lehigh Valley Coursing Club	LVCC	Leslie Carroll	Present
Lone Star Whippet Club	LSWC	Denny Baker	Present
Lone Star Whippet Club	LSWC	Jack Downing	Present
Mason Dixon Ibizan Hound Club	MDIHC	Ian Davies	Present
Mason Dixon Ibizan Hound Club	MDIHC	Lori Coulson	Present
Metropolitan Atlanta Whippet Association	MAWA	Sandra Moore	Present
Michigan Gazehound Association	MGA	Joe Shumaker	Present
Michigan Gazehound Association	MGA	Gayle Kytta	Present
Mid-Atlantic Deerhound Association	MADA	Diane Murray	Present
Monterey Bay Coursing Association	MBCA	Christie Beetz	Present
Nebraska Coursing Association	NCA	Marilyn Standerford	Present
OKI Gazehound Organization	OKIGO	Janet Lotz	Present
OKI Gazehound Organization	OKIGO	Holly Hamilton	Present
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of United States	RRCUS	Debbie Bell	Present
Saluki Club of America	SCOA	Tom Cigolle	Present
Sighthound Organization of the Tidewater	SHOT	Gary Roush	Present
Southeastern Greyhound Club	SEGC	Dawn Ferris	Present

Southeastern Greyhound Club	SEGC	John Parker	Present
St Louis Area Sighthounds	SLASH	Karen Frederick	Present
Tortoise & Hare Lure Coursing Club	THLC	Pete Mendicino	Present
Tortoise & Hare Lure Coursing Club	THLC	Don Ewing	Present
Tri-State Sighthound Club	TSSC	Ping Pirrung	Present
Tri-State Sighthound Club	TSSC	Jane Schreiber	Present
Upper Chesapeake Bay Saluki Club	UCBSC	Dean Wright	Present
Upper Chesapeake Bay Saluki Club	UCBSC	Audrey Silverstein	Present

- a. Voting tallies determine Sunday's majority ( $\frac{1}{2}+1$ ) = 23 and 2/3 majority = 30

**U) LCJA Lure Operator of the Year 2009**

Michael Ferris speaks for the body of the Lure Coursing Judges Association. Every year, this group names a lure operator of the year. The list of winners of this award is long and distinguished. LCJA is pleased and honored to add to that list the name of Tom Cigolle, Jr., Lure Operator of the Year 2009.

**V) New business**

- a. Judge's breed(s) next to name (Hurlbert)

Scott Hurlbert shares with the ACoD that some Field Trial Secretaries thought it may be easier if the judges listing on the ASFA website included the breeds that the judge is known to own so that they may better coordinate a judges panel that does not have, for example two Borzoi judges (preventing one judge from being able to run their Borzois in the trial).

**MOVED/SECONDED/FAILED:** that the breeds owned by ASFA judges be listed beside the name of the judge in the judges listing/directory

- b. Policy on Priority Dates (Jordan)

Bob intimates that he wishes to put forth a policy that discourages clubs from hosting one organization's coursing trial one day of a weekend and another's the other day of the weekend. He conceives of a weekend as the "priority date" and not simply the Saturday and not the Sunday or vice versa.

Russ Jacobs points out that a policy to this effect may be in conflict with Running Rules CH 4 Section 3 (8) and (9) which repeatedly refer to "date or date(s)" and "trial or trial(s)". On this point, Russ advises that a motion be sent not to Policies but to REC for consideration of matters such as the one he points out.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to refer to REC for language and recommendation the concept that a "priority date" includes both days of a weekend. This policy would clarify and make effective the way priority dates have been traditionally interpreted by the ASFA. This would further require clubs to schedule a minimum of two ASFA events on their priority weekend with a minimum of one on Saturday and one on Sunday in order to maintain priority in the subsequent year. Cancellations for emergency conditions (such as weather) will not affect priority status.

c. NBQ Placement (Cigolle)

Tom acknowledges this is a subject visited in the recent past, however, he reasserts that this term "next best qualified" has no relevance to our placement system. Fifth place is the accurate term. Tom bases this understanding on the fact that ASFA does not move hounds up in placement when one is found ineligible for competition. Next best qualified was an expressed intended for a dog who would be next in line for points should any of the already qualified dogs become disqualified later for reasons of ineligibility.

Discussion ensues and the question is called.

**MOVED/SECONDED/FAILED:** to change the language "Next Best Qualified" to "Fifth Place"

d. Add Call Names for Hall of Fame Hounds on website (Wright)

No discussion was required.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** that the website, in addition to listing a hound's registered name, displays in addition the call names of hounds that appear on the website for hounds inducted into the hall of fame.

e. Non-Sighthound Coursing Events

Tom proposes that ASFA consider a program for non-Sighthound breeds similar to the one we offer Sighthounds. Jeff points to the ASFA constitution that in Section 2 lists the objectives of the organization, and that these, each and every one, has "Sighthound" in it. Our purpose has "Sighthound" in it and even our experimental programs dictate that the program not be in conflict with the ASFA Constitution. Jeff suggests that what Tom proposes would require modification to the constitution to enact. A voice from the floor makes the suggestion that clubs can do this independent of the ASFA. Her club has even printed certificates for handing out, and these kinds of events can raise a good deal of funds for a club. "Wanna-be" competitions must be run before or after the trial however, and cannot be run concurrently.

**MOVED/SECONDED/FAILED:** that LRP evaluate the possibility of adding some kind of event for non-Sighthound breeds.

f. Requirements for Regional Invitationals (Cigolle)

Tom establishes that, from his viewpoint, the changes that have been made by the Board to policies have made the Regional Invitational event nothing more than another regular, ordinary trial. There is no "invitational" to it anymore. The one point requirement, though it was only one point – defined it as an invitational. Plus by accepting some of these other titles and throwing out the one point, ASFA could have a first time runner at an ASFA Invitational. It seems we have digressed.

Scott Hurlbert is asked to read aloud again the new eligibility requirements.

Perspectives from the floor and from the head table are shared with the room. Arguments from both sides of the issue are made.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** that the ASFA reinstate the one point requirement back into the eligibility for Regional Invitational.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** This policy, after wide publication and dissemination, shall go into effect for Regional Invitationals on or after January 1, 2010.

g. True Invitational (Cigolle)

Tom tells that Frank Zawarski approached him and Dawn Ferris at a meeting about a concept of offering a “true invitational” – where, for example, you only invite the Top Twenty Hounds from the previous year. It may be a small trial, granted, but it will be definitively invitational in character.

Bob Jordan speaks against the idea because though intentions are good, when you begin inviting a select group of people, you begin offending those excluded from the competition. Les Pekarski counters with a suggestion that the true invitational could follow or precede the I.I. so that everyone is able to attend. Grouping these events would also help keep costs down for both the hosts and the attendees.

Jeff adds to the discussion his understanding that the word “Invitational” is a means for elevating the event. It is smart marketing, smart promotion to have that name in the event’s title. Russ observes that this premise applied to the “true” invitational concept may unintentionally cast a negative light on the Invitational and Regional Invitationals as they are by default “not truly” invitational.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** that LRP look at the option and viability of another type of invitational for Top Twenty Hounds and return recommendations to the ACoD.

h. ISWS Recognition (Jordan)

Bob Jordan addresses the ACoD indicating that he had come prepared to make a motion for the acceptance of Silkens into ASFA but that he has been persuaded to refrain at this time because the matter is more complicated than he understands. However, he wishes to share that a gathering of people sat together with the ISWS representatives for about an hour or so after the presentation, learning about the Silken history and about the way they do things. He goes on to add that many people he has talked to from his region are interested in the breed. At this time, then, rather than making a motion that is likely to be shot down, he would like to ask the Board to explain what will have to happen for them to go forward from this point. Again, because he promised to make a motion but now won’t, he would like to be able to go back with some feedback.

Jeff responds by saying he has been in direct contact with the ISWS President and intends to have a follow up conversation with her. In addition, Jeff points to the constitution which is pretty clear about the process for Sighthounds, purebred Sighthounds, and their opportunity to get involved with our program. He thinks it is no mystery that if a breed is not recognized by one of our acknowledged registries, the ASFA Board has the ability to make it an ASFA Board approved registry, at which point the breed parent club can make application and indicate that it is a sighthound and a purebred Sighthound, and then the Board will make the decision whether to move it into the first class, and then eventually this ACoD – as they did with the Cirnchi – will have the opportunity to weigh in before they get full breed status. He expects that the ISWS President understands the opportunity to speak at this year’s ACOD was for information purposes only so that the ASFA could learn a little more about the registry and about the breed. Jeff expects that he will have a conversation with Hutsie and that the ISWS will decide on what timeframe they want to advance the issue. He doesn’t know at this point whether a motion would be in order. Rather, such would be dependent on what ISWS does with the time frame and on what the Board decides to do with the registry.

**W) Adjournment**

Anticipating a motion to adjourn, Jeff thanks the ACoD for their participation, their attention, and he hopes they found the convention a productive one. He thanks them for their trust, and he assures that the whole Board thanks them for their attendance.

**MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED:** to adjourn @ 10:08a

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Moran  
ASFA Recording Secretary

ACoD