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ASFA

Communiqué

2013.04.02

April 2013
Special ACoD Ed.

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- 2nd Vice PresidentThom Haig
- Recording Secretary.....Karen Frederick
- Corresponding Secretary Bill Bowlus-Root
- Chief Financial Officer..... Jeff Lipps

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 - Region 5 Josie Haumont
 - Region 6 Gregory Breitbach
 - Region 7 Dale Parks
 - Region 8 Gary M. Roush
 - Region 9 Rich Whritenour
 - Region 10 Keith Hicks
-

President's message

We have all returned from a great ACoD filled with ideas and good times to report to our clubs. It was so nice to see old friends and be able to meet new ones. It was particularly fun to be inside during a raging snow storm and know there was no need to go out and drive in it, let alone think about having a field trial. Thank you everyone that attended and we missed those of you who were unable to make it. Now is the time to start planning to attend next year.

Ping Pirrung

Special ACoD Edition

We will try to give you a somewhat detailed overview of the ACoD and you will be able to get the full recounting when the minutes are posted to the website.

We all gathered in the spacious meeting room to a nice array of fruit, pastries with coffee and tea. As always Vicky Jacobs does an amazing job at arranging everything and making sure everything is as ordered. It's a lot of work, but she makes it seem so easy.

Friday afternoon the snow started falling – horizontally – and continued on through the night. Unfortunately the blizzard hampered some travel plans but everyone eventually made it. It was amazing to see that snow was swept into the lobby by the revolving door.





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We had 43 delegates attending representing 31 clubs.

The President's report was upbeat noting that most of the committees had done a good job this year and worked

hard at achieving the goals they had set for themselves last April. Ping also noted that the *Communiqué* has been more frequently on time this past year with the goal of continuing to do so. We are looking forward to a very productive year in 2013 with the addition of many new RDs.

Dean Wright and Thom Haig, ASFA's first and second vice presidents, reported working with the Board and the committees on which they are members. They have been a great support to the President as we progressed through our first year together.

Karen Frederick, the Recording Secretary, reported that both the minutes from the Board meeting and ACoD were delivered respectively in a timely manner. The minutes from the 2012 ACoD were approved by the delegates.

Bill Bowlus-Root, the Corresponding Secretary reported on the results of the recent RD elections as well as the motions that passed the Board throughout the year. Bill has done an amazing job of keeping the work flow moving along smoothly. Jeff Lipps, the CFO, reported on our finances. Unfortunately the attendance at trials is still declining. However we are in a somewhat stable position financially, but this is not a reason to get complacent. We still need to be cautious of where we spend our dollars and work hard at increasing entries at our trials.

The Regional Directors (RDs) for all regions except regions 2, 4, and 9 were in attendance. The reports from the regions gave the delegates insight

to what has been transpiring in each area of the country. Many of the RDs gave us an overview of what they hope to accomplish in 2013. We are looking forward to hearing the results of these initiatives at next year's ACoD.

The Invitationals Committee is still looking for a club or clubs to host the 2014 II and is working to update the guidelines for all Invitationals.

Evelyn Jones, the ASFA Awards chair, presented the plaques for the top hound in each breed to the owner of the hound, if present, or to the RD to take home to the winner. Check the ASFA website for the final top hounds for 2012.

The RDs selected the Apalachee Coursing Club as the winner of the Excellent Performance Award (EPA) for 2013. Dale Parks, RD for Region 7, accepted for the club. Congratulations!

Some highlights from the Committee Reports:

- **Membership:** ASFA now has 101 clubs total. 4 affiliate clubs became full member clubs, two fast track clubs became Affiliate clubs, and we have a new Fast Track club, a new Affiliate club, and a new Applied club.
- **Guidelines:** The Board is working on guidelines for every committee and Board position. These guidelines should be completed in the next year.
- **Scheduling:** Good comments on the ease of processing dates and premium lists online. Denise emphasizes that if you do not hear back from her within 24 hours, send a follow up



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email to her personal address: wolfwindbz@frontiernet.net. Denise also asks that the breeds in the judges' grid in premium lists be done in alphabetical order. If you want to put the running order in the premium list, please do it in a spot other than the judges grid.

- **Records Coordination:** Lori's printed report included many statistics, from the total number of hounds competing, titles, trials by year back to 1997, with some by Region and others by breed. Your club delegate will have the full set of reports. Lori also encourages all field trial secretaries to read "Records 101" which is on the Hounds Records Page under Tools on the home page of the ASFA website.
- **Computer:** Some progress was made on the records program, but there is still a lot of work to be done to have it working well. Lori has been developing workarounds for the time being. A new, multi-year, initiative was announced that will provide ASFA with an IT infrastructure that will allow us to use modern technologies for every aspect of our business, from managing records, entering and conducting trials, and reporting results as soon as they are recorded.
- **Web Liaison:** All reports are updated and formatted in a timely manner and subsequently sent to the webmaster for uploading.
- **Web Site Publication:** Has been working behind the scenes to keep the website moving well. They have added a Google search function at the top right side of the home page to assist when looking for something specific. They are also working on publishing on the website the entire history of FAN, hence the shout out for those of you who may have duplicate back copies you are willing to share. A redesign is also in the works.
- **Public Relations:** Is working on publicity for the ASFA, whom we should target, and other options. An ASFA Facebook page has been developed and will be up shortly on a trial basis. Be sure to give us your feedback.
- **Forms Creation and Distribution:** An inventory

was given of the forms on hand. Also it was pointed out that there are ASFA products available from the Café Press store, a link to which can be found on the ASFA website.

- **Policy Compilation:** The new policies for the year were highlighted. They have been reported in the Communiqué throughout the past year.
- **Judges and Judges Licensing:** Has been working on updating the requirements for apprentice and provisional judges keeping in mind the need for judges in the areas of the country that don't have many trials and/or many entries. They also worked on the judges' seminar program. The judge who judged the most hounds in 2012 was Paul Kytta.
- **Archives and Historical:** Is working on an inventory with the hopes of eventually posting the list on the website. Many notable items were added to the ASFA Archive from the extensive collection donated by Les Pekarski this past year, including the original Lyle Gillette lure machine. At each convention Dean tries to bring something of historical significance. This year was a very moving account of the first ASFA field trial on August 13, 1972, written by Ruth Reynolds and read aloud by Russ Jacobs. It was thrilling to listen to and you could imagine yourself there. We plan to post it to the website for all to read.



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- **Field Trial Improvement:** Developed and conducted two surveys; one for clubs and another for exhibitors. These issues that surfaced were outlined for clubs to be aware of to improve their field trials.
- **Constitution Revision Committee (CRC):** The two proposals for the year passed. The first provides some leeway when there are problems selecting the site for the ACoD, and the second simply removed the outdated references to FAN where they occurred.
- **Rules Evaluation Committee (REC):** All of the rule change proposals passed except for #3, which would have made the winners of all flights of the individual stakes eligible to compete in a Best of Breed run at Specialties and International Invitationals.

Ad hoc Committees of the Convention:

- **ACoD Site Selection and Planning:** Next year's ACoD will be in Dallas, TX, and for 2015 it will be in Pittsburgh, PA. 2016 will be in the West (Regions 1, 2, 3 or 10). Anyone knowing of a suitable location should contact Vicky Jacobs. Online registration for ACoD is being looked into.
- **Advisory Committee on Animal Issues:** Works to keep us updated on animal issues that affect specific areas of the country or nation-

wide.

- **Gary Forrester Committee:** This year was awarded to Janet Lotz.
- **Lure Coursing Hall of Fame:** The person was Les Pekarski. The hounds were: Gala, Rory, and Kelly.
- **Nominating Committee:** Next year is an election year for officers of the ASFA Board of Directors. The members of the committee to draw up a list of candidates were announced: Dean Wright (chair), Dawn Ferris, and Beth Levine.

The ACoD finished all business by 4:00pm on Saturday. We adjourned and later convened to meet the shuttle to take us to dinner at a very delicious Italian restaurant. With all the snow outside, having the shuttle made the short trip to the restaurant easier.

With no business to conduct on Sunday, many of us took the opportunity to gather in the meeting room for a very good open discussion on what we could do to help clubs increase their entries. The ideas ranged from public relations, to field trial improvement and long range planning. It was very productive and the numerous good ideas brought up will be taken up in committee discussions throughout the coming year. Thank you to the delegates who participated!

It's very important that you distribute the "Communiqué" to your club's members so they can keep informed.



Ping Pirrung
President
president@asfa.org



Bill Bowlus-Root
Corresponding Secretary
corressecy@asfa.org