

# AHA General Membership Meeting Agenda & Minutes

## NPA National, San Diego, CA

The meeting was called to order; January 8, 2011, 10:00 AM by Western VP, Hank Ebbelaar.

### Members in attendance:

Bob Bollinger	President (had to leave show for urgent family matter, on phone part of the time)
Hank Ebbelaar	Western VP
Mike LaCom	District 1 Director
Dennis Manning	District 2 Director
Steve Petito	District 5 Director
Steve Mitchell	District 8 Director
Victor Cline	District 14 Director
Dennis Bray	Past President
Vic Eshpeter	District 2
Leonard Patito	District 1
Mike Crawford	District 7
Tony Patti	District 12
Chet Edmunds	District 1
James Jensen	District 8
Otto Schenck	District 2
Jim Garus	District 2
Danny Revolinsky	District 3
Bob Jackson	District 4
Micky Jackson	District 4

- Members reviewed the attached Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and Treasurers Report.
- Members were asked to make special note of the "Outstanding Achievement" Award being given to Chuck for his 18 Years of service as AHA Secretary Treasurer.
- VP Hank Ebbelaar announced that Mike LaCom will be receiving a special "President's Award" from the Club. Mike did a great job transporting and setting up our area here and has been instrumental in doing the same at many of the recent Western events. To this end Mike has invested a lot of his own time and money to make our AHA areas the stand out of the show. Thanks Mike!
- We were blessed to have two great junior members showing with us at the show. Members agreed to use the results of the NPA junior judging to award our Junior Champion.
- Members were reminded of the AHA auction immediately following the general membership meeting.
- Members engaged in a lively discussion regarding the wording and original intent of the AHA Master Breeder Rule requirement for a nominee to have won the National. The MFC winner at this show was exhibited by a club member but the bird was bred by another member. To the best of everyone's recollection this is the first time this has occurred in the history of the AHA. Since there was a lot of discussion in the aisles during the show and recognizing that there was a broad diversity (regions, tenure, master breeders, past officers, charter member, etc) of officers and membership present at the meeting, President Bob Bollinger left a request the members discuss this emergent issue and provide a consensus of opinion on the matter. After much consideration;
  - A motion was made by Dennis Manning, Second by Hank Ebbelaar to summarize the opinion of the collective as follows; "We agree that the present rules state that to get credit for the Master Breeder requirement a nominee must win the National with a bird he exhibits and has bred." Motion passed. (all in favor with 2 abstain, none opposed)

Meeting was adjourned to move forward with the auction.

## AHA Board of Directors Meeting 2011 Minutes

- Reading of Last Year's Minutes, Motion to accept by Hank Ebbelaar second by Dennis Manning.
- Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept by Hank Ebbelaar second by Dennis Manning.

### Officer's Reports

#### **President's Report – Bob Bollinger**

Our club is doing well! Our core membership is holding steady and our show events are doing great. This year we had sectional meets in a three sections with 8 point shows overall in 5 districts. Thanks go out to everyone who worked to hold and attend our events. As always, our members had a good time at the events and people took notice of our great club and group of people.

We had a great club election this year with nearly a full slate of officers on the ballot and numerous nominations for judges. It was especially noteworthy that we had many people step up to take on roles in the club. There was even some lobbying as people aspired to hold roles. This is a far cry from some years in the past where we had to go out and beg people to hold office and judge. We had a good number of our members vote in the election and a number of close votes. For the roles without nominations, several people accepted appointments to the open District Director roles.

I am especially pleased to report that we had several volunteers to take on our Secretary / Treasurer role. Chuck has done an outstanding job over the last 18 years and the AHA owes him our deepest thanks. Greg Bliven won the role and I have been in contact with both Chuck and Greg. We have started shifting club business to Greg and we have also created a number of check lists to help ensure a smooth transition.

This year I appointed a committee to review our current Master Breeder rules and recommend any changes required in light of changes in the hobby over the last few decades. I was very impressed with the level of passion and enthusiasm of the committee members. It looks like everyone is mostly happy with the program but we may see some minor tweaks to help support smaller districts and tidy up administrative changes over the years.

Special thanks are in order for many of our members who stepped up to help the club this year; Bob L for accepting the Central VP role and coordinating the first Central Sectional in many years. Our Master Breeder update committee. Everyone who accepted appointments to roles and accepted nominated for club service.

This coming year I would like to see our membership increase. Let's all work to be more evangelical and "sell" our breed and our club to potential new members. This could look like have "Join the AHA" forms available in our judging areas to purchasing a years' membership for new people who buy birds from you. We also need to work hard to raise more helmets. In the East there is a definite demand for "good" birds and we are having to turn potential new members and breeders away. There is a lot of background interest in helmets and with a little work we can really drive our club even further ahead!

#### **Western VP Report – Hank Ebbelaar**

Our local shows in the second District have been well attended. We have a new breeder in CA Chet Edmunds. We got a judge into judge our Western Sectional, John Raposso, who brought us a fresh perspective and we had good number.

#### **Eastern VP Report – Giulio Marcoccia**

Hello folks, 2010 has been another successful year for the eastern AHA breeders. Very well attended shows in many different locations with high quality helmets being shown by all, a testament to the leadership of this club and its members desire to be the best. Thanks to everyone that has made 2010 another great year and best wishes to all for the 2011 breeding and show season, see you all at the shows.

## **Secretary / Treasurer's Report – Chuck Dwight**

This is my final report as secretary of the AHA. I am already feeling some regrets about resigning, but feel that I don't have the time at the busiest time of the year to divide between the AHA and my sheep.

I have enjoyed all of the time that I held the office of secretary. I have met and worked with some of the great members and officers of the AHA.

We have had some good times and a few bad times while I was secretary. Our membership has dropped a lot over the years. I think that the economy and the change in our Helmets have had a lot to do with this. Our shows have stayed strong and the quality of the birds keeps improving.

The one thing that I would like to see in our Helmets is that we could get them back to feeding and raising their babies by themselves. A lot of us don't have the time or space to keep a lot of feeders. I think this is the biggest cause of the drop in our membership.

I want to thank all of the great friends I have made over the past 18 years for the support you have given me. Hope you have a great show.

### **District 1 Report – Mike LaCom**

The new Pageant is being held next year in Riverside, CA. The new show hall is a big step up from the hall in San Bernardino. This will be the Western sectional. This will be a little earlier this year. We have two new members, Antonio R and Chet E.

### **District 2 Report – Dennis Manning**

Yes we have a district 2. We had a great Western Sectional this year. We had a good show Puyallupe, WA. As reported by Hank, John R did a good job judging the sectional and Greg did a great job at Puyallupe. We also had a really good turn out of shortface at the Sectional and made enough for points. We received \$140 in rebate money for trophies from the sectional.

### **District 5 Report – Steve Petitio**

We had a pretty good showing of helmets at our two shows in Florida. Its just John R and I there right now and we give a way a lot of birds but we still have trouble getting numbers for points. We will be having the National in Florida next year and I have an extra loft and I am willing help anyone who is coming.

### **District 6 Report – Chuck Dwight**

Things are slow in District 6. We only have 4 members who are active. We had a great show in Louisville as usual. We will have one more show in January at Fremont, Ohio.

### **District 7 Report – Bob Bollinger**

Things are going well in District 7. We have had several meets in the PA area and all were well attended. We have seen some juniors, local 4H program, interested in the breed and they have been showing with us. One of the juniors even hand fed several MFC babies. There is a lot of demand for good birds and we will work to raise more stock for next year. We are also going to focus on attracting more new members.

### **District 8 Report – Steve Mitchell**

In Utah helmets have dropped of drastically. However, things ebb and tide and that's the way it is. I have had several people say they would get into helmets if they would feed their own young.

### **District 14 Report – Vic Cline**

Things are going well in District 14. We have had our usual meet in Waynesboro with good attendance and enough birds for points in both MFCs and MFPs. Our membership is low but Danny and I are doing well. It looks like we will get a new member in North Carolina and hopefully generate more interest in the Maryland area as

two former members have expressed an interest in getting back into helmets. Maybe we can coordinate two meets next year.

#### Old Business from last year:

- Numbers of bands – BOD agrees with Chuck's recommendation to go with 3000 bands this year. Size 7mm. We also need to remind people to use AHA bands and register others. Motion to accept by Dennis Manning second by Hank Ebbelaar. Approved
- Need money approved for club web sites (AHA \$69 and My Family~\$60) – BOD recommends we pay for the sites. BOD also reminds members to be positive and use the tools to help benefits the club and the breed. Motion to accept by Dennis Manning second by Victor Cline. Approved
- Email bulletins –everyone remind Greg if you wish to receive via email – This will reduce Paul's work and the club's copying / postage costs. We would also like to encourage Greg and officers to reach out to everyone and advocate the email bulletin.
- Message board on the AHA web site – A "Birds for Sale" and "Birds Wanted" message board has been added to the AHA web site. BOD recommends that we continue with this as a service to the AHA members for helmets only. Motion to accept Steve Mitchell and second by Hank Ebbelaar. Approved.
- Do we want to do an Auction at this event? – BOD determined that we will do it at 11A Saturday after the General Membership meeting. We encourage members to minimize selling in the aisles and help support the auction.

#### New Business

- Timely Submission of Show Reports – BOD to brainstorm what we can do to get results submitted in proper format in to proper places in a timely manner.
- Clarification of Breeder of the Year – BOD unanimously voted to approve the committee recommendation to clarify the Breeder of the Year award to specify "by variety".
- Officer Appointments – President Bob B reported that he appointed the following people to fill club positions not filled in the election; Steve Mitchell – Dist. 8 Director, Wes Pfadenhauer – Dist. 3 Director, and Pavel Lutsenko – Dist. 9 Director. Greg Bliven will be opening a new AHA bank account as part of his transition from Chuck and is authorized to do so.
- Outstanding Achievement Award – President Bob B nominated Chuck Dwight to receive a special outstanding achievement award from the AHA for his 18 years of service as AHA Secretary / Treasurer. Chuck will receive a certificate and special glass award. The BOD unanimously concurred with this.
- SSL and Yearling Awards – Bob B recommended that we provide a SSL (supporting the small loft) award certificate again this year, if applicable, and also provide Champion Yearling certificates for each of our major classes. Dennis Manning made a motion to accept the recommendation second by Victor Cline. Approved.
- Use of AHA bands – BOD to encourage all members in their districts to buy and band with AHA bands. The bands are the primary revenue generator for the club and having bands left over has a major impact on our treasury.
- Ad in the Purebred – BOD recommends that we continue our ad in the Purebred as current. Motions to accept by Hank Ebbelaar second by Steve Mitchell. Approved. Early Mailing of Bands to Canada – Giulio noted that the mailing of bands to Canada can take longer than expected and requested that we mail them earlier. He suggests December 10 like the NPA sends. .... Motion by to accept by Steve Mitchell second by Steve Petitio.
- Web Site Thread Capture – Bob B suggested that we ask someone to monitor web traffic and capture good threads for publication in the bulletin and AHA web sites. The BOD humbly requests Giulio to do it as it fits well with the Publicity Director role.