

Minutes of the HSDAA Annual Membership Meeting

October 27, 2017

The Annual Membership Meeting of the HSDAA was held on Friday, October 27, 2017, at the Wyndham Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, with the President, Mary O'Day and Secretary pro tem, Debbie Ezzell, in attendance. The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:08 p.m.

A roll was taken via sign-up sheet and it was determined that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

Minutes from the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting – November 4, 2016

Secretary pro tem Debbie Ezzell read the minutes of the 2016 Annual Membership meeting. Having heard no questions or comments on the minutes, Steve Liner moved that minutes be accepted as read. The motion was adopted.

Report of the President

Mary O'Day reported that a big hurdle that we as a club experienced this past year is the passing of Doc Baldwin. It has been a difficult year emotionally but we are getting back on our feet. The quality, soundness and type of our dogs in the ring on the first day of our National Specialty show was excellent. We are strong and we are rebuilding and we are all learning to do new things to keep our club growing.

Report of the Secretary

No report since the Secretary is absent.

Report of the Treasurer

Sharon Martin reported our current financial status as follows:

Total Income	\$14,035.58
Total Expenses	<u>\$14,594.39</u>
Net Income	\$ -558.81

Checking/Savings

BB&T Checking Account:	\$ 1,260.00
Second Wells Fargo Checking	\$11,742.54

Second Wells Fargo Savings	<u>\$ 6,925.34</u>
Total checking account balances:	\$19,927.88

Dionne Franklin noted that several members have contributed and covered some of our losses in the past year. She suggested that we could save money by obtaining show equipment locally for shows instead of shipping supplies from one location to another. Mary O'Day reported that Marilyn Spence is our new Show Events Coordinator and she will look into ways to cut costs. Cathy Foldesi suggested that we keep track of past shows and budget appropriately for upcoming shows.

Agnes Szilagyi reported that our new winners signs were made and donated to the club. She suggested that we send a note or gift to the donor.

Committee Reports

Breed Recognition

Committee Chair, Helen Conticchio, reported the following: This year was about the same as last year. We have had shows with ICKC and ICE in the past in addition to our shows. We have had reports from many people who have attended that they enjoy the shows. The committee is now Helen Conticchio and Gloria Sharrar, both are on the east coast. It would be nice to find someone in other areas of the country to help on the committee. Members can help also by promoting their dogs. There are companies like VistaPrint that can make cards very inexpensively. Members can order cards and pass them out to people who are interested in their dogs. All ideas about how to better promote our dogs are welcome.

Regarding a question about the American Rare Breed Association, Helen reported that Doc Baldwin had been checking into that organization. ARBA would take over our stud book and our standard and determine when we could change it. They would require all dogs entered into the registry to have three generation pedigrees.

Health Committee

Committee Chair, Suzanne LaCosse, reported that she recently accepted the position of chair of the committee. Agnes Szilagyi and Julie Savastio will also be on the committee. Suzanne looks forward to working with all HSDAA members to make this the healthiest breed we can. The health report form is on our website and it will be easier now to report health issues. It will also allow for secondary reporting – reports from others who are aware of health concerns. There was discussion that there should be some effort made to verify or follow up on secondary reporting. Some of the information will be reported in the Silk Road as general information showing statistics only.

Membership Committee

Mary O'Day reported for Gloria Sharrar that renewals were strong for 2017 and membership held steady. Renewals for 2018 will go out in November. We received one application for member upgrade. Members are encouraged to apply.

Registration Committee

Debbie Ezzell reported that we currently have 1548 dogs in our registry. In 2016, 53 dogs were added to the registry and there were 10 active breeders. So far in 2017 there have been 33 dogs added to the registry and 6 active breeders. Debbie noted that "active breeder" refers to breeders who produced litters in the reported year.

Rising Stars Committee

Mary O'Day reported that Gloria Sharrar has had difficulty promoting the program. If anyone is interested in helping with the program, please contact Gloria or Mary

Show Events Committee

Mary O'Day reported that we have had five shows this year, down one from last year. Next year we plan to do two ICE shows in Michigan and Florida. We are planning to have our 2018 National Specialty here in Virginia Beach again. We have had suggestions for shows in Las Vegas and Colorado also.

Discussion about future shows included a request to know prior to a show if there would be enough dogs entered into a show to earn points. It was also noted that many venues have been increasing their prices making it difficult to make money on shows.

Companion/Performance Events Committee

Suzanne LaCrosse reported that *there are many different ways our companion dogs can promote our Breed. If their caretakers don't want to show in conformation classes, but want to have activities to do with their dogs, there is Rally, Obedience and Agility. Several of our Silks have won awards in all these areas. We encourage anyone whose dog earns a title to send that information in to Renee Kuharski.*

Technology Committee

Les Foldesi reported that he recently took over the position of chair of the Technology Committee from Gloria Sharrar. Colleen and Dave Eagle are also on the committee. Serelda Elliot and other members have also contributed to the committee. Les said the software currently being used for our website is Joomla but it has not been easy to work with. The committee would like to switch the software to WordPress and would also like to move the website to another server.

Les said that if anyone needs to add forms to our website, please send them to him as Word documents and he will convert them and post them to the website. He also reported that he has given access to our website to six new members. The committee plans to convert some of our web pages to documents as they would be better suited for the website in that format. He also suggested a check list for the Show

Chair with deadlines for information and forms for submittal. Colleen Eagle added that there is a new member, Cindy Lanigan, who is knowledgeable and willing to help with the website.

Member discussion included suggestions to add more photos to the website and update the current photos to attract puppy buyers who are interested in breed recognition, and to use black font only for readability. There was also discussion about why Havana websites are included in search results for Havana Silk Dog websites.

Show Records and HSDAA Championships

Mary O'Day read a report of the Show Records committee sent by Renee Kuharski who was unable to attend the show. In 2017 there were 20 dogs that received championships. In the Companion class there were 1 Junior Champion, 2 Grand Champions, 1 Bronze Grand Champion, and 1 Silver Grand Champion. In the Provisional/Certified class there were 2 Junior Champions, 7 Champions, 5 Grand Champions, and 1 Silver Grand Champion.

Evaluators Committee

Helen Conticchio reported that as of August 1, there had been three evaluations for certification done this year and all passed. There were four evaluations done during the National Specialty show for a total of seven evaluations for this year. In 2016 there were 14 evaluations done. Helen requested that if anyone needs to have an evaluation, please send all pictures to her so she can schedule the evaluation.

Discussion included Dionne Franklin adding that it is difficult to evaluate a dog that is only one year old because the dog is not fully developed. Dionne recounted a discussion she had with an orthopedic veterinarian who stated that it is not unusual for bowing to develop in dogs 1-2 years old. Many members stated that they think one year is too young to certify our dogs for breeding. Virtually all members were in agreement. After group discussion, Steve Liner moved that we change the age for certification of regular dogs to 18 months instead of 12 months. The motion was adopted.

Publications Committee

Colleen Eagle reported that she was proud to accept the position of chair of the committee. She has a background in publishing and she knows she is capable of the task. Colleen said it has been a pleasure working with Serelda Elliot. Serelda continues as design editor for the Silk Road and she has been a great asset to Colleen while she has been training for her new position. Colleen requested that the Board discuss increasing Serelda's stipend for the work she performs on our magazine.

New Business

New HSDAA Award

Cathy Foldesi reported the board approved a new award last summer called the HSDAA "Doc" Joanne Baldwin Cardinal Award. It is an award to be given out annually at the National Specialty to a person deemed deserving as a good representative of our club.

A motion was made for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Debbie Ezell, Secretary Pro Tem